Date: Oct 13, 2011

Proposal: Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests In, and Relationships with, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds

Document ID: R-1432
Document Version: 1
Release Date: 10/11/2011
Name: Theresa Pintarelli
Affiliation:
Category of Affiliation:
Address:
City:
State:
Country: UNITED STATES
Zip:
Postal Code:

Comments:
I am submitting this comment in response to the proposed Volcker Rule (Docket No. R-1432). I am writing as a concerned citizen affected by the financial meltdown and the bailouts caused by Wall Street banks' high-risk trading. Banks should be in the business of lending to America's small businesses and families, not using our money to run a private casino where the house always wins. The final Volcker Rule should, without exception, prevent banks from investing consumers' money, without their consent, into high-risk, speculative ventures. It is time for a safer financial system, and one that serves the real economy instead of preying on it.

frboard-web-site@federalreserve.gov
10/18/2011 10:16 PM

To regs.comments@frb.gov
cc
Subject Comments on Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests In, and Relationships with, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds [R-1432]

Date: Oct 18, 2011
Proposal: Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests In, and Relationships with, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds
Document ID: R-1432
Document Version: 1
Release Date: 10/11/2011
Name: Ruth Phinney
Affiliation:
Category of Affiliation:
Address:
City:
State:
Country
Zip:
PostalCode:

Comments:
I am submitting this comment in response to the proposed Volcker Rule (Docket No. R-1432). I have been and am being affected by the financial meltdown and the bailouts caused by Wall Street banks' high-risk trading. Banks should be in the business of lending to America's small businesses and families, not using our money to run a private casino where the house always wins. Bank investments should reflect the needs of the communities in which they do business and from which they profit. Banking functions should be separated from high-risk investment gambling. The market as a whole seems to have lost its purpose of providing for investment in, fluidity of cash for and (reasonable) growth of business. It has become, instead a high-risk casino game which far exceeds the risks of the margin calls of the 1920s. It is inappropriate for community banks to play financial roulette with depositor’s hard-earned savings. The wins, when they happen, finance profits and bonuses and do not return to depositors. The depositor’s, however are expected to pay for the bank's losses through tax-financed rescue while banks continue to pay excessive executive compensation and bonuses. The final Volcker Rule should, without exception, prevent banks from investing consumers' money, without their consent, into high-risk, speculative ventures. It is time for a safer financial system, and one that serves the real economy instead of preying on it. Frankly, as a small depositor, I was better-off in the highly regulated 1960s. I earned better interest. I paid fewer fees. I did not underwrite bail-outs to support industry profits and the income of the wealthy. And, I did not see my retirement account vanishing before my eyes as a result of the economic collapse following fast and loose deregulated "investment" gambling.

no-reply@erulemaking.net

11/08/2011 04:20 PM

To regs.comments@federalreserve.gov

cc

Subject FRS - Public Submission for 2011-27184

Public Comments on Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests In, and Relationships with, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds:

Title: Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests In, and Relationships with, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds
FR Document Number: 2011-27184
Legacy Document ID:
RIN: 7100-AD82
Publish Date: 11/7/2011 12:00:00 AM

Submitter Info:
First Name: alice
Last Name: charles
Mailing Address:
City:
Country: United States
State or Province:
Postal Code:
Email Address:

The so-called Volcker Rule, which severely restricts proprietary trading by banks and their affiliates, should not be permitted to be watered down by lobbyists in the rule-making process. Arguments that suggest it is not feasible to distinguish proprietary trades from agency trades fly in the face of a significant fact that conveniently goes overlooked, i.e. that every CFO on Wall Street has been able to make just such a distinction for decades. That they can make such a distinction is important, because there are important tax and other consequences to the firm for not making it.

It has been argued that the Volcker Rule will make our financial services industry less competitive with those of foreign countries. Not so. Proprietary trading activities will simply migrate to broker-dealers, hedge funds and other institutions. No doubt, banks will lose a significant source of revenue; but they have demonstrated what happens when banks, critical to the national security of the nation, are turned into hedge funds, engaging in wild and heavy speculation while ignoring the primary missions for which they have been granted charters. Despite what some think, proprietary trading must be understood to mean, as well, buying and holding speculative risk assets, even if the holding period is months or years. Speculation does not mean, simply, day trading, as some suggest. Citigroup's exposures to mortgage-backed CDOs, which were massive, makes this point quite well.

What is clear now is that banks should be banks, however uninteresting banking is thought to be in the minds of some banking executives. Notwithstanding the creative arguments put forward by lobbyists, and those heavily influenced by them, to the effect that the economic sky will fall if the Volcker Rule is implemented as intended, rulemaking must go forward in a manner that recalls the true concern of Dodd-Frank -- national security.

I'm writing in support of a strong "Volcker Rule." My family and I were affected by the economic collapse of 2008, and we don't want it to happen again.

We need you to write a final rule that accomplishes the fundamental goals of the law: separating risky proprietary trading from the traditional business functions of banking institutions, banning proprietary trading at "too big to fail" banks, reducing the risk that financial market gambles present to the safety of our whole financial system, and stopping conflicts of interest like those that saw Wall Street firms selling their customers deals they had designed to fail.

It is important to not let the rule be undermined by exemptions or exceptions. The Dodd Frank Act instructs you to make sure that the activities big banks are permitted to engage in do not create the risk of another financial crisis. Accomplishing this requires changes to current business practices on Wall Street. I urge you not to be swayed by financial industry interest in protecting a status quo that has benefited them and put the rest of us at risk.

It is also important that banks that break the rules should face real penalties for violations. Violations of the "Volcker Rule" will endanger the stability of our financial system. They should not be treated lightly.

Thank you for considering my views.

Ed George

I'm writing in support of a strong Volcker Rule. My family and I were affected by the economic collapse of 2008, and we don't want it to happen again.

As you prepare the final rule, bear in mind the fundamental goal of the rule - to ban big banks from exposing consumers and taxpayers to risky proprietary trades.

Banks that break the rule should face swift, automatic penalties for violations. Violations of the Volcker Rule endanger the stability of our financial system. They should not be treated lightly.

Exemptions should only be allowed if they do not undermine this goal. If an exemption would result in exposing consumers and taxpayers to bank risk, it should be rejected.

Thank you for considering my comment,

Michael Gaussa