



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

December 22, 2010

Mr. Howard Pitkin, Commissioner
Department of Banking
260 Constitution Plaza
Hartford, CT 06013

Dear Commissioner Pitkin:

We of the Manchester legislative delegation are very concerned about the proposed merger of the NewAlliance and First Niagra banks and its potential impact on people in the Greater Manchester area and the State of Connecticut. We understand that jobs will be lost as a result of the merger and that the attendant reorganization will have a serious economic impact on our community and the state.

We wholeheartedly support Attorney General Richard Blumenthal's call for a public hearing on the merger. In these difficult economic times, preserving jobs and the economic base of our communities is a paramount concern. As such, we feel that it is imperative that a public hearing be convened by the Banking Department, as is allowable at your discretion by state statute. We believe it is important that there is full and complete public disclosure of the merger plan, the specifics on the jobs affected, the community impacts on lending and the availability of credit for small businesses and individuals in our community.

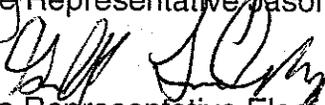
We believe it is critical that the public be afforded an opportunity to hear how this merger will affect them and comment on what is proposed in the merger before the merger is considered for approval by your department. Furthermore we respectfully request that a public hearing be held in the town of Manchester where the impact of the proposed merger is likely to be most significant. Given the holiday season it is best to schedule the public hearing after the first week in January 2011.

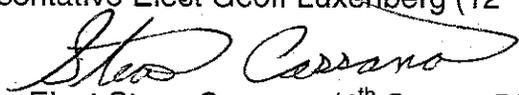
Please let us know your decision on the public hearing; and the venue and timing. We appreciate your consideration of this request, which is of utmost importance to our constituents.

Sincerely,


State Representative John Thompson (13th House District)


State Representative Jason Rojas (9th House District)


State Representative Elect Geoff Luxenberg (12th House District)


State Senator Elect Steve Cassano (4th Senate District)