



October 9, 2008

Dear Valued Customer,

With these challenging economic times and the recent headlines about the soundness of the global and United States financial services industry, I wanted to write to you to reassure you that Continental Bank remains financially strong and ready to meet your banking needs.

The national mortgage crisis that you've read and heard about has been the main cause of many of the problems facing financial institutions today. I am pleased to tell you that Continental Bank is not exposed to the root cause of this crisis. Continental Bank's loan portfolio does not include any subprime mortgages, nor do we have any exposure to investments in the securities that are tied to these types of loans.

Continental Bank is also not an investment bank. We are a locally-owned, community bank focused on providing deposit and lending solutions to people and businesses within our own communities. Our culture of strong, disciplined lending and our focus on the communities we serve will continue to serve us well.

Despite the turmoil in the financial markets, most of the banks in this country are well capitalized. Continental Bank maintains strong capital levels – exceeding the minimum requirements set by the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), our federal regulator. In addition, our Board of Directors and shareholders continue to support the mission and growth of Continental.

Continental Bank is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), which provides insurance backed by the full faith and credit of the federal government for customer deposits. With the new legislation passed by Congress last week, the FDIC now insures deposits up to \$250,000 through December 31, 2009. In fact, if you have more than \$250,000, you still may be fully insured if your accounts meet certain requirements. You can visit [www.fdic.gov/edie](http://www.fdic.gov/edie) to utilize FDIC's Electronic Deposit Insurance Estimator to help you calculate the insurance coverage for your accounts. Our Personal Bankers in our 10 community stores are available to you to review your current account structure and answer any questions you may have.

These are truly unique times. Though the prevailing economic conditions are too extensive for any of us to not feel the impact, Continental Bank is well-prepared to weather the storm and emerge stronger than ever. We are ready, willing and able to meet the lending and deposit needs of our communities. I want to thank you for your continued support and commitment to Continental Bank and look forward to our future together. I am personally available to you by phone or email should you have any further questions.

Yours truly,

H. Wayne Griest  
President & CEO

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