



First Merchants Bank

2520120310020

P.O. BOX 792 | MUNCIE, IN 47308

EBSA/PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
2012 JAN -9 PM 3: 24

KIMBERLY J. ELLINGTON, SPHR
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

December 29, 2011

Top Hat Plan Exemption
Employee Benefits Security Administration
Room N – 1513
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

**RE: First Merchants Corporation 2011 Executive
Deferred Compensation Plan**

To Whom It May Concern:

In compliance with Department of Labor Regulation Section 2520.104-23, this communication is to disclose the establishment by First Merchants Corporation of the above unfunded plan, known as a "top hat" plan, on October 31, 2011. Per the reporting and disclosure provisions of the above Regulation the following data is submitted:

Name and Address of Employer:	First Merchants Corporation 200 East Jackson Street Post Office Box 792 Muncie, IN 47308-0792
Employer Identification Number:	35-1544218

First Merchants Corporation (the "Employer") declares that this plan is primarily for the purpose of providing deferred compensation for a select group of management or highly compensated employees. This is one of three plans of its type maintained by the Employer. This plan presently has 38 participants. The other "top hat" plans maintained by the Employer were established on March 1, 1997 and October 12, 2006, respectively, and they have 3 participants and 1 participant, respectively.

Should you require any additional information or have questions regarding this correspondence, please address them to:

Kimberly J. Ellington
Senior Vice President and Director of Human Resources
First Merchants Corporation
Post Office Box 792
Muncie, IN 47308-0792

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kimberly J. Ellington

cc: J. Moll, DeFur Voran LLP
File

FIRST MERCHANTS BANK, N.A.

WWW.FIRSTMERCHANTS.COM

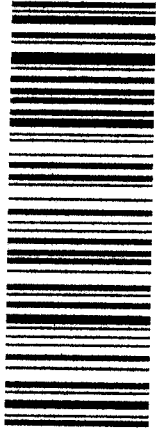




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ROOM N - 1513
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
200 CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20210

