



## **Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies**

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at <https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm>. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)).

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Ann E. Misback, Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20551-0001, not later than April 18, 2024.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis** (Stephanie Weber, Assistant Vice President)  
90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291. Comments can also be sent electronically to [MA@mpls.frb.org](mailto:MA@mpls.frb.org):

1. *Stearns Financial Services, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan, Saint Cloud, Minnesota*; to increase its ownership interest in the voting shares of Stearns Financial Services, Inc., Saint Cloud, Minnesota, up to 23.2753 percent and thereby indirectly increase its ownership interest in the voting shares of Stearns Bank National Association, Saint Cloud, Minnesota; Stearns Bank of Upsala, Upsala, Minnesota; and Stearns Bank of Holdingford, Holdingford, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**Michele Taylor Fennell,**

*Deputy Associate Secretary of the Board.*

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