ST. LOUIS, MO — The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the applications by Bear State Holdings, LLC, Little Rock, Arkansas, and First Federal Bancshares of Arkansas, Inc., Harrison, Arkansas, to become bank holding companies through the acquisition of First National Security Company, Hot Springs, Arkansas, and thereby indirectly acquire First National Bank, Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Heritage Bank, N.A., Jonesboro, Arkansas, pursuant to Section 3(a)(1) of the Bank Holding Company Act. The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis also approved applications by Bear State Holdings, LLC and First Federal Bancshares of Arkansas, Inc. to continue operating a savings association through the retention of ownership of First Federal Bank, Harrison, Arkansas, pursuant to Section 4(c)(8) of the Bank Holding Company Act.

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