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 application by Sterling Bancshares, Inc., Poplar Bluff, Missouri (Applicant), to acquire 100 percent of the outstanding voting shares of Bootheel Bancorp, Inc., Poplar Bluff, Missouri (Bancorp), and thereby indirectly acquire its subsidiary bank, First Community Bank, Poplar Bluff, Missouri. This Reserve Bank also approves the companion application by Bootheel Acquisition Corporation, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Applicant, to become a bank holding company by becoming the successor by merger with Bancorp. The applications were filed pursuant to Sections 3(a)(3) and 3(a)(1) of the Bank Holding Company Act.

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