

## **DOB OPINION 96-002**

**Date:** February 29, 1996

**From:** John L. Bley, Director, Department of Financial Institutions

**Subject:**  
**Agency Agreement Powers of State Chartered Banks**

By letter dated February 27, 1996 you requested an opinion from this office concerning whether Washington state-chartered banks currently have the power and authority to act as agent for one another in the performance of their lawful operations. It has been and continues to be the view of this Department that state banks acting as agent for one another have implied authority pursuant to RCW 30.08.140(13).

This opinion is further reinforced by the bill language which resulted from the Interstate Working Group process this summer. Section 7 of that bill confirms that these agency agreements exist today and imposes a requirement that written notice of the existence of such agreements be given to the Director. Obviously, if the authority did not exist today, Section 7 would be a useless provision.

As always, should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.