



UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

Mail Stop 4720

April 25, 2018

Via E-mail

Robert Sarver  
Chief Executive Officer  
Western Alliance Bancorporation  
One E. Washington Street Suite 1400  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

**Re: Western Alliance Bancorporation  
Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017  
Filed February 26, 2018  
File No. 001-32550**

Dear Mr. Sarver:

We have limited our review of your filing to the financial statements and related disclosures and have the following comments. In some of our comments, we may ask you to provide us with information so we may better understand your disclosure.

Please respond to these comments within ten business days by providing the requested information or advise us as soon as possible when you will respond. If you do not believe our comments apply to your facts and circumstances, please tell us why in your response.

After reviewing your response to these comments, we may have additional comments.

Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2017

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

Note 14. Income Taxes, page 123

1. Your net deferred tax assets decreased \$89.4 million in 2017 driven by the recognition of deferred tax liabilities of \$68.8 million related to deferred income and \$35.8 million of insurance premiums offset by an increase in deferred tax asset NOLs of \$25.7 million and the recognition of \$24.2 million of tax credit carryovers. Additionally, you incurred excise taxes of \$9.7 million. Please tell us and enhance future filings to disclose what gave rise to these changes. Refer to ASC 740-10-50.

Robert Sarver  
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We remind you that the company and its management are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of their disclosures, notwithstanding any review, comments, action or absence of action by the staff.

You may contact Michelle Miller at (202) 551-3368 or me at (202) 551-3492 with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gus Rodriguez for John P. Nolan

John P. Nolan  
Senior Assistant Chief Accountant  
Office of Financial Services