



DIVISION OF
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

December 7, 2018

Mark K. Hardwick
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
First Merchants Corporation
200 East Jackson Street
Muncie, IN 47305

**Re: First Merchants Corporation
Registration Statement on Form S-4
Filed December 3, 2018
File No. 333-228658**

Dear Mr. Hardwick:

This is to advise you that we have not reviewed and will not review your registration statement.

Please refer to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requests for acceleration. 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.

Please contact David Gessert at 202-551-2326 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Division of Corporation Finance
Office of Financial Services