



## **BERKSHIRE BANK JOINS FIRESTONE FINANCIAL'S BANK GROUP - INCREASES CREDIT FACILITY TO \$150 MILLION**

**NEWTON, MA – March 4, 2013** – Firestone Financial Corp. a leading provider of equipment financing, announced the addition of Berkshire Bank to its bank group and the signing of \$150 Million, multi-year revolving credit facility. Provided through a bank group led by Citizens Bank, the facility is an increase of \$25 Million to the line secured in May of 2011.

David Cohen, President and CEO of Firestone Financial, said “We are growing and have partnered with banks that understand our growth strategy and support our initiatives. The addition of Berkshire Bank will provide the additional capital we need to increase our presence in our existing markets and to explore new ones.”

Patrick Sullivan, executive vice president of commercial banking and wealth management at Berkshire Bank, commended the Company. “Firestone Financial has built its business based upon long standing customer relationships and industry expertise, a philosophy that is shared by Berkshire Bank. They serve their customers well and we look forward to continuing to partner with them as they grow even further.”

In addition to Berkshire Bank and Citizens Bank, other banks that participate in the financing are Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, Bank of America, N.A., TD Bank, N.A., and Brookline Bank.

### ***About Firestone Financial***

Since 1965, Firestone Financial has provided equipment financing nationwide. As a direct lender, we have helped our customers acquire billions of dollars worth of assets. Our focus is on cultivating long term relationships in the industries that we serve. Today we provide competitive financing solutions for vending, fitness, coin laundry, and indoor and outdoor amusement industries. To learn more, call 1.800.851.1001 or visit [www.firestonefinancial.com](http://www.firestonefinancial.com).

### ***About Berkshire Bank***

Berkshire Hills Bancorp is the parent of Berkshire Bank – America’s Most Exciting Bank<sup>®</sup>. The company has approximately \$5.3 billion in assets and 73 full service branch offices in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and Vermont providing personal and business banking, insurance, and wealth management services.

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