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Secretary Jennifer J. Johnson
Board of Governors
Federal Reserve System
20th St. and Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20551
RE: Docket No. R-1314

Dear Secretary Johnson:

The Federal Reserve Board should not restrict subprime credit card companies in any manner. If this is accomplished, then subprime companies will find it more difficult to lend to consumers without a credit history or to consumers that have made mistakes in the past. It seems that the American economy no longer uses cash for transactions; everything is done using credit, making having credit vital for the consumer. Subprime lenders offer credit when other resources are unattainable.

I have had my CorTrust Bank card for over two years now; I applied because I needed some way to improve my credit. I fell on hard times after having surgery, and I did not have any insurance to cover my medical expenses. I was unable to pay the numerous medical bills that followed. At that time, I was single. I am now married and when my credit score improves to approximately 720, we plan on buying a home. Prior to having my CorTrust card, I applied for other loans, but was denied. My credit was just too risky. I did get approved for one small loan, but its interest rate was astronomical. Since working on my credit and using my credit wisely with CorTrust, I have been able to apply and be approved for a truck loan, as well as other credit with mainstream lenders.

I am now able to do things with my children that I couldn't do before. I am grateful that I can purchase Christmas gifts, and pay off the balance throughout the year. Moreover, when my son had surgery, I was able to afford to pay the anesthesia he needed. If I had not had a subprime company like CorTrust approve my application, I am not sure what I would have done. When consumers do not have access to credit, they are very limited, and life would be much harder. Using subprime credit has been a success story for me; I encourage the Board to drop their proposals that would restrict this market. Changes just are not warranted.

Yours truly,


Helen Ortega