

From: Mary Steinhaus
Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

Comments:

Board of Governors of Federal Reserve System
20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20551

Dear Federal Reserve Board Director:

I support the proposed requirement that would require financial institutions to obtain consumers' affirmative consent (or opt-in) before any overdraft fees or charges may be imposed on consumers' accounts.

Banks should get explicit permission before enrolling customers in the most expensive overdraft system, automatically covering overdrafts and charging high fees, and should be stopped from using unfair practices to increase their overdraft fees.

By enabling automatic over draft "PROTECTION" you are allowing the banks to take advantage of those people that are in the worst financial shape. It is usury, under fancy double speak, it is still usury.

Our Country is reeling because of questionable loan practices. They were doing people a favor/ a public service by granting bad loans. Do the homeowners out on the street feel that way now?

When a bank refuses us the right to decide in ADVANCE they are perpetuating the practice of taking money away from an unsuspecting public. More bad loans be given out as a "service" It is a service all right - it is servicing their balance sheet.

This feature takes advantage of people that are not savvy and need gentle reminders to stay in check.

Last week I went to a ATM - was able to withdraw requested funds. I went online a few days later I saw that I had overdrawn my account and incurred a healthy fee. If the ATM had generated a message notifying me I would become overdrawn, I would not have completed the transaction, I had another bank acct to use, and thinking I had funds in both accts just grabbed a card.

Additionally if this had warned me I could have made arrangements sooner to get funds into that acct. I was in a position that I could have bounced a number of auto payments without realizing it.

I rarely use my ATM cards - in fact that was the first time in over a year. - The reason I don't care for processing fees, convenience fees etc sometimes charged by both bank. So I generally plan my spending needs.

My son, who is not the best at financial management spent HUNDREDS of dollars in overdraft fees because of this feature. He is in the service, he and his friends would be out, and excessive costs were rung up.

I strongly feel that people need to have the option to add this special service of overdraft protection to their accts. Not have it be automatically included in the fine print. Let the bank explain why they need to charge you an exorbitant fee for that cup of coffee that caused the overdraft. Thank you

Sincerely,

Mary Steinhaus