

From: Joe Blake
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.

I *USED* to bank with US Bank, until last May. They have a scheme whereby only the first \$100 of a deposit is available immediately, with the balance due the following business day.

I deposited my PAYCHECK (I work for a Fortune 500 company, the very largest company in our industry) in person, with a teller on the Friday before the Memorial. There was a very long line, as usual, on Friday afternoon (why banks have 8 windows and three tellers on their busiest day is also a mystery to me). The deadline for my transaction had passed while I was standing in line, so my deposit was treated as the next day's business, in this case Tuesday since it was a three-day holiday weekend.

According to their custom, the first \$100 was credited on the current day's business, Tuesday, with the balance being made available to me on the following day, Wednesday.

Between 3:05 PM or so on Friday and Wednesday I used my debit card multiple times. Gasoline was near one of its high points at the time, so a fill-up burned up most of the \$100 "available." I rented a RedBox movie a couple times, went to the grocery store, ate out, just general mundane things that I really didn't even need to do. In all I used my debit card a total of twenty times over those four days after I had gone below my available balance. "As a COURTESY" US Bank allowed my card to continue to be accepted -- they knew I was not REALLY overdrawn, I had made an \$800 deposit -- only the first \$100 of which was considered "available".

I was charged \$34 for each and every time my card was used (and continued to work, I might add) for every one of those twenty transactions, a total of \$680 in overdraft fees -- and I had another ten days to go before my next paycheck.

A system that allows banks to abuse customers in this fashion must end immediatery.

US Bank will never do that to me again -- I closed my account there, but they are surely doing the same thing to their current customers.

Sincerely,
Joe Blake