

From: Lanny Hutchison  
Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

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Comments:

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Proposal: Regulation E - Electronic Fund Transfers  
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Comment on Proposal: Regulation E - Electronic Fund Transfers [R-1343]  
First, let me preface my comments in stating that I am a retired banker of 38 years, 20 of those years as a small bank CEO. Bank overdraft fees have increased dramatically over time to an outrageous level. The cost associated with handling a insufficient funds or overdraft item is insignificant in comparison to the fees assessed the customer. It is simply about greed and profit, forget the service benefit as marketed. Inaction on the part of bank regulators and congress to halt this practice has in effect legalized a way for banks to steal from the less fortunate individuals, generally of low income. Overdraft protection programs are merely a continuation of that effort marketed by banks as they are helping those that can't manage their checkbook. Such programs encourage irresponsibility, spending in excess, and destroys credit ratings for those unable to repay the accumulation of overdraft charges. Bank overdraft protection programs should be eliminated entirely or at a minimum an "opt-in" enrollment requirement instead of automatic enrollment with an "opt-out" provision. Debit card transactions considered a live transaction by consumers, should simply be denied rather than covered for a fee. With the taxpayer bailing out many of these banking institutions, it is time to rein in this practice of taking from those that are funding the bailout!