

From: Perry Evans
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.

Although I understand that overdraft fees are normal and expected for writing checks, I definitely agree that overdrafting on a debit or ATM card should not be automatic. Banks should be required to provide consumers with the information on fees related to being able to overdraft on a debit or ATM card and the consumers should have to sign an agreement that is clear about the options and fees before banks can charge them.

I also believe that banking institutions should not be allowed to process transactions in a manner that maximizes the penalties/fees. An optimum solution might be to require they establish a separate fee for the first overdraft and a lower one for any subsequent in the same day. That could alleviate the issue of a number of small transactions adding up to hundreds of dollars of fees.

Bottom line, opt-in should be the standard for overdraft protection, especially when it comes to ATM/debit cards and ideally for all fees.

Sincerely,
Perry Evans