

Sandra Jo Garza

February 14th 2011

Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20551

Dear Ms. Johnson:

In regards to the Federal Reserve System's proposed "Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing" rule, I have several concerns that I would like to voice at this time.

I have been made aware that should this proposal be accepted by the Federal Reserve System, many services I have received from my bank in the past at no cost will no longer be free. Services that I currently use for free at this time is my Free Checking account, online banking, ATM withdrawals and day to day debit card purchases. I have had my current accounts for 22 years and have always used a debit card for store purchases. I never carry large amounts of cash in my wallet as it is more convenient and safer to pay with a debit card. Should this proposal be accepted, all these services I now receive for free will more than likely create new maintenance and other fees on checking accounts. Individuals with average and less than average incomes will be the most affected, and they will find it more difficult to maintain a bank account due to these fees.

In order to avoid fees, bank customers will revert back to the days when paper checks were commonly used. As a result of declining debit card use to avoid fees, there will be a big increase in check fraud. This will also create large increases in local and state budgets with District Attorneys having to prosecute for crimes that could have been prevented through more debit card use. In addition, the merchants could incur substantial losses due to a larger increase in check fraud.

As a consumer, I am very worried about the economy at this time, and it worries me that fees that I cannot afford to pay at this time will be charged by my bank since they will not be able to cover the cost of providing free debit card transactions and other services that they provide currently for free. I cannot afford to pay for services that I have been receiving free for many years.

I am opposed to this proposal as it will change the banking industry in a negative manner and will also adversely affect consumers.

Sincerely,


Sandra Jo Garza