

Salvatore Sanzone  
Sanzone's Italian Restaurant  
2897 Stuarts Draft Highway  
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477

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

Dear Secretary Johnson:

Many of the customers at my restaurant, Sanzone's Italian Restaurant, pay with either a debit or credit card. It would be impossible to survive in this business if you did not offer credit and debit card payments to customers, as hardly anyone carries cash these days. This means that businesses like mine have become heavily reliant on the services of the banks through which these transactions are processed. The banks need to be required to set their fees at reasonable levels so that they are fair and easy for retailers to understand. This is currently not the case, so I urge you support the Federal Reserve's ruling setting debit card swipe fees to a reasonable level.

To be honest, I am not even certain of what my company owes on each swipe of a debit card. The fees are always changing, and the print is so small on the documents sent to us, that it can be difficult to determine the actual percentage lost on each sale. Thankfully, the pizza business has remained good through the recession, and I have not had any real difficulty affording the fees I pay. Still, it would be great to realize some savings on these fees, as we are in need of some new equipment for our kitchen.

Something needs to be done now to stop these fees from going higher and higher. Currently there is nothing in place to stop the banks from increasing their fees, but if the ruling by the Federal Reserve is put in place, it will put a stop to these spiraling costs for all retailers. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

  
Yours truly,  
Salvatore Sanzone