

Subject: Regulation AA

Date: May 19, 2008

Proposal: Regulation AA - Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices

Document ID: R-1314

Document Version: 1 Release Date: 05/02/2008

Name: William Ziemann

Affiliation:

Category of Affiliation:

Address: 1309 N. Wells St., Unit 903

City: Chicago

State: IL

Country:

Zip: 60610-8059

PostalCode:

Comments:

Over the past eight years the greed of banks has run amok. Their credit card practices have grown to be particularly odious. They market cards to vulnerable financial illiterates with poor credit habits then cry for protection from the bad debt that ensues. They charge credit rates that should be considered criminal but instead are looked upon benignly by their bought Congress. They routinely send statement attachments using legal jargon and VERY fine print to change cardmember agreements that are solely aimed at increasing the issuer's revenue. One I caught simply added a 1.5% increase to charges made abroad; Visa and Mastercard already charge the cardholder 1.0% for doing the currency conversions, that is somewhat reasonable; the additional bank charge is unmasked greed of absolutely no benefit to cardholders. This practice should be reversed in any package of credit card reforms. And those reforms should include controls against contract amendments, substantial decreases in credit interest rates, a ban on protection for creditors who lend to high risk individuals, a universal grace period and fixed billing date, a cap on miscellaneous charges, a ban on compulsory dispute arbitration, and stronger protection for consumers against these abusive megabusineses. Thank you for this opportunity to address the Board and for your consideration.