

From: "Jim Meserve" <jim@nextdayart.com> on 11/13/2008 12:00:06 PM

Subject: Regulation AA

Dear Committee,

As the economy is being battered by unfair and unethical lending practices, the credit card companies continue to recklessly abuse consumers in pursuit of profit. The random rate hikes based on credit reports unrelated to the existing credit line, excessive late penalties and teaser rates designed to entice and then punish need to be stopped. I have been an American Express customer for about 25 years and opened another business card for my daily operations and was late on payment several times (paid but late admittedly). However, they raised my rate from about 8% to over 26% in one month and applied these charges to back balances.

First, this rate is criminal. Loan sharks charge less.

Second, they should not be allowed to charge increased rates on balances that pre-existed their determination of a rate hike.

Third, how, in the world, in good conscience, can the government give these companies TAXPAYER dollars while allowing predatory lending practices?

The consumer gets their interest rates raised through the roof while Congress gives them more access to cash, for less interest, based on their failure. If we are late on payments - we pay - if these big institutions fail at their jobs, ruin their companies, pocket huge paychecks - they get relief.

What is wrong with this picture! It's disgusting. Who's watching our back?

Jim Meserve
President
Next Day Art
424 Fore Street
Portland, ME 04101
207-761-4278
www.nextdayart.com
"Bringing Great Art to Life"