

From: Angie Taylor
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.

In the recent past, I had transferred several hundred dollars from my individual checking account to the line-of-credit (LOC) attached to my individual and joint checking accounts. I did this to (1) reduce the balance of the LOC account and (2) cover pending debits on the joint account. I found out the following day that First National Bank of Pennsylvania (who bought Omega Bank, a local bank I'd been a happy customer of since 1994) does not process transfers to LOC accounts immediately as Omega Bank had done and as the online system had shown. So rather than covering the pending debits on the joint account, we received \$140 in overdraft fees when I had just paid and had available more than enough money in the LOC account to cover the debits! I was horrified and sent an email to FNB right away only to find out that their policy is to hold transfers to LOC accounts for a full day.

Needless to say, I have been shopping around for a bank with more reasonable policies. I'm sad to report, however, that I've not yet found that bank - which includes credits unions!

We consumers desperately need this legislation to protect us from these "less than customer service oriented" institutions.

Sincerely,
Angie Taylor