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Comments:

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I feel that limitation of interchange fees represents a very realistic step towards increasing card use, which will only help decrease the use of cheques and therefore the associated overhead. I say 'increasing card use' because one of the primary factors for a merchant looking to get a card machine is whether he can tolerate the hit to his net. While the banks who provide these services are for-profit entities, the services are quickly approaching the level of public utility. In broad strokes, the banks providing these services screw the merchants, even on debit card transactions. This means that the small business owner who has no negotiating power just gets stuck with what the bank tells him he can have. Regulation makes sense here.