

Pat Propst
Propst's Superette
5865 Springs Road
Conover, NC 28613-7408

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

Dear Secretary Johnson,

As the owners of 11 stores that sell gas and convenience items, my son and I have seen our debit card interchange fees triple over the past five years. They are literally eating us alive. It is a relief to have Congress and the Federal Reserve recognize the fact that their charges are not fair.

With twenty years of experience in managing convenience stores, we pretty much know the ins and outs, but things continue to get harder. Sales took a dive in September of 2010, and November and December posted record lows for us. We do not make money on gas, and as the prices continue to rise, so do our debit and credit card fees. Is it fair that we provide the service and they make the money? Our customers use more debit than credit, and our monthly fees run around \$1500 per store.

There is no doubt in my mind that Visa and MasterCard will lobby fiercely for you to change this regulation. Please keep in mind that it is small businesses that provide the services and employ most Americans, and we desperately need your help. If we continue to get squeezed on both ends, we will be forced to close stores, which will result in lost jobs. Thank you for your help.

Best regards,

Pat Propst
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*\$ 1500.00 in cc fees is the lowest
of our 11 stores. Some stores
cc fees run around 3000.00 monthly*