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Feb 18, 2011

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

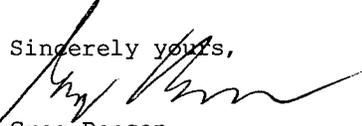
Dear Secretary Johnson-

Owning a business today is filled with ups and downs. Each day, another store closes, and many more are balanced on the brink of bankruptcy. One major problem for smaller companies today is the fees that are charged to process debit and credit card payments. These fees can be so high that often they are the reason retailers end up raising the price of their products or services. Regulation of these fees would mean that business owners would have a much better chance to keep their prices competitive and remain solvent.

In the past twelve years, I have had both a restaurant and a retail store for kitchen supplies. However, after seven years and declining sales, I had no choice but to close down my restaurant in 2009. If you are a business owner today, it seems as if everyone, from financial institutions to the government, has their hands in your pockets. After you add up all of the costs to run a business today, it is no wonder why we are losing so many. It seems like we spend eighty percent of our time trying to keep what we earn these days.

Normally, I do not like government interference in the business world. However, in the case of large credit organizations, we need their help. Regulation will prevent these giants from continuing to take advantage of small enterprises. Right now, they can charge as much as they like, and they do. If small business is to survive, we need these fees regulated and kept at a fair and sensible rate.

Sincerely yours,



Greg Benson