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

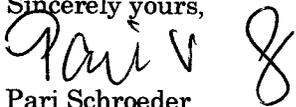
Dear Secretary Johnson,

It is disappointing to learn that the credit card companies are continuing to fight against legislation that would set card swipe fees to a fair level. You must not support any arguments by these companies that have for too long been taking advantage of small businesses by charging them large fees when customers use these cards. It is my hope that the swipe fee reform passed last summer will go into effect this summer.

My parents run a small convenience store in Pearland that sells both gas and groceries. As the price of gas and other items has increased over the fourteen years that we have been in business, our customers have become increasingly dependent on credit and debit cards to make their payments. This has put us in a bad situation since we must offer this payment option to our customers while still paying high fees to the bank and credit card companies. Now that our business has slowed due to the off season and the poor economy, paying these fees has become even tougher.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. If our economy is ever going to truly rebound, small companies must be allowed to compete and survive. You must allow the swipe fee reform to go into effect, setting the fees at the twelve cent limit. This amount is fair and reasonable for all involved.

Sincerely yours,

  
Pari Schroeder