

February 14, 2011

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

Re: Docket No. R-1404 and RIN No. 7100 AD63

Dear Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System,

I would like to thank-you for the opportunity to comment on the Federal Reserve System's proposed "Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing" rule.

I am a proud customer of a strong community bank where I have received many of my bank products and services for free. Now I understand that this proposed Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing rule may change that and as a result I will be charged. Current economic times have impacted many, many Americans and their pocket books. We are now facing another attack on our finances. Why?

The only benefactors of this new rule are the retailers. It is estimated that they will take home over \$15billion in profits and it is consumers like me that will be left to deal with the consequences. The rule does not require that retailers pass along even one penny of their savings to customers. Yet, my bank will be forced to lose money on debit interchange transactions and it will be forced to compensate by increasing fees for deposit customers.

All this new proposed rule will do is to force us to return to using cash and checks. Cash will lead to an increase in security threats and checks will lead to fraud and our District Attorney will be faced with an increased case load of check fraud. This will cost money and valuable time that could be spent prosecuting criminals.

My bank is a community-based institution. It is a true partner in contributing to non-profits and civic organizations that work at improving our community. Their donations enrich the many lives of the citizens of this community. Surely, this new rule will play a huge role on the spirit of giving by the bank.

I am opposed to the proposed rule because the proposal does not allow my bank to cover the cost of providing debit card transactions. This will most certainly create new maintenance and other fees on checking accounts. My bank has suffered enough in this economy and the excessive regulation. Let me be clear that I am opposed to capping interchange fees at 7 to 12 cents.

Rules are passed to create a fair and just playing field for all. This Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing rule is one-sided, favoring only the retailers, and the ones left out are the consumers. Rules should be created with the idea that no harm will come to anyone. I urge you to think about the true consequences of this proposed rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonia A. Falcon', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Sonia A. Falcon