

Fred Rusteberg

February 14, 2011

Ms. 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 Federal Reserve Board of Governors:

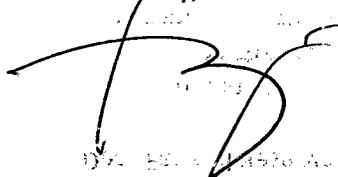
I am commenting on the Federal Reserve System's proposed "Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing" rule, which I strongly oppose. Although unintentional, this is clearly another case where our Government is attempting to help the consumer without understanding the consequences, thereby causing harm to the very consumer that they are trying to help.

The result of capping interchange fees will be that banks will have to pass on these related expenses to the consumer either directly or indirectly. As a consumer on a restricted budget, it is not right that I be charged for a debit card or other services, which are now free. In reality, the debit card system is not broken. As I am sure you are aware, the debit card system has evolved from the old cash and check system of the old days, which had its own set of problems in handling and processing large amounts of cash, check fraud and many other negatives.

The debit card has provided for our economy to increase productivity, help small business and the consumer, and help facilitate the sales process in an efficient manner. If we consumers have to pay \$5-\$6/month and we have two cards in the household, we will probably be forced to go back to paying cash and using checks. **It is ridiculous that it has come to this. Who is getting the break here?** The retailers are going to pocket the gain at the expense of the consumer. And what effect when multiplied by millions, will this change have on the already fragile economy? When we are trying to cope with a bad economy, create jobs, increase productivity (GDP), balance our budget with huge deficits now and in the future, God forbid we add inflation on top of that: where are we headed with this?

Clearly, this is bad legislation that should never be enacted. In fact, this type of overreaching by Government should be rescinded. The Federal Reserve System, of all entities, should have a greater understanding of what this will do to the banks, the consumer, small business, and the economy. For all of the above reasons, my family and I are adamantly opposed to this entire Government attempt to "help the consumer". **Reject this Debit Card rule, and save us all from the unintended consequences.**

Sincerely,



Fred Rusteberg

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