

Proposal: 1818(AG67) Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing

Description:

Comment ID: 158719

From: Jessica Jackson

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Subject: 1818(AG67) Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing

Comments:

NONCONFIDENTIAL // EXTERNAL

Re: Docket Number R-1818, RIN 7100-AG67

Dear Secretary Ann Misback,

I trust this email finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the Federal Reserve's plan to reduce interchange and debit card fees, a decision that has the potential to significantly impact the financial well-being of 8 million Bank On account holders across the nation.

The Bank On program has played a crucial role in providing safe and affordable banking options, serving as a beacon of financial inclusion for those who have traditionally been excluded from mainstream financial services. The proposed fee cut threatens the sustainability of Bank On accounts, putting at risk the progress made in bringing unbanked individuals into the financial mainstream.

As Deputy Register for Oakland County, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact of Bank On accounts on our community. These accounts have not only provided financial stability to individuals but have also contributed to the overall economic health of our region. Reducing interchange fees jeopardizes the very foundation upon which the Bank On program stands, and it is imperative that we safeguard the financial well-being of those who rely on it.

Furthermore, I want to draw your attention to a 2022 study from George Mason University, which highlights that over 1 million Americans remain unbanked due to the consequences of the Durbin Amendment. The proposed reduction in interchange fees could further limit access to essential banking services, especially for lower-income households, exacerbating the alarming issue of financial exclusion.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and carefully evaluate its potential ramifications on the millions of individuals who depend on the Bank On program for their financial stability. Together, we can work towards a financial system that promotes inclusivity and ensures that all Americans have access to the banking services they need.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I look forward to your thoughtful consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,
Jessica Jackson
Deputy Register
Oakland County