

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

Description:

Comment ID: 158701

From: MoReno Taylor II

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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 message finds you well and amidst a wealth of awareness concerning the critical role that the Federal Reserve plays in shaping the financial landscape of our great nation. My name is MoReno Taylor II, a dedicated political activist and community organizer deeply committed to the empowerment of marginalized communities.

I write to express my profound concern regarding the Federal Reserve's recent proposal to decrease the cap on debit card interchange fees. This proposition, if implemented, poses a severe threat to the very fabric of our society, jeopardizing the financial stability of over 8 million Bank On accounts and, subsequently, the livelihoods of countless Americans.

The national Bank On initiative, a beacon of hope led by Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, has been instrumental in forging pathways for un- and underbanked individuals to access safe and appropriate financial services. As of 2022, over 17.4 million Bank On certified accounts have been opened, with more than 8 million actively utilized across 87% of U.S. ZIP codes by December 2022. The proposed reduction in debit card transaction fees, from 21 cents to a mere 14.4 cents, endangers the progress made by Bank On, as highlighted by the American Bankers Association. Bank On accounts, with their low fees, are sustained primarily through debit card activities, enabling individuals to break free from the shackles of exorbitant fees associated with alternative financial services. Debit transactions, an integral part of Bank On's success, are a lifeline for account holders. With over 145 million debit transactions processed monthly, averaging 27 transactions per account holder, these actions contribute to a total monthly average of over \$5.8 billion in debit transactions. Such financial activities empower individuals to sidestep unnecessary fees and service charges associated with credit cards, fostering a sense of financial accountability.

In light of these compelling statistics, I implore you to reconsider the proposed reduction in debit card interchange fees. By doing so, we can continue to uplift the lives of millions, fostering financial inclusion and stability for those who need it most.

I appreciate your time and attention to this urgent matter and trust that you will make a decision in the best interest of our citizens.

Sincerely,
MoReno Taylor II