

Meeting Between Governor Tarullo and Representatives of Consumer Interest Groups

January 7, 2011

Participants: Governor Daniel Tarullo (Federal Reserve Board member), Stephanie Martin (Federal Reserve), Mike Calhoun and Rebecca Borne (Center for Responsible Lending), Travis Plunkett (Consumer Federation of America), Lauren Saunders (National Consumer Law Center), and Maureen Thompson (AARP)

Summary: Governor Tarullo's meeting with the consumer group representatives included a brief discussion of the potential impact on consumers of the Board's proposed interchange fee rule. The groups represented have not taken formal positions on the rule, but meeting participants offered their reactions to the possible elimination of existing cross-subsidies between consumers who pay with cash and those who pay with debit cards, the potential for merchants to pass on their fee savings to consumers in the form of lower prices, and possible fee increases for transaction accounts or debit card usage.