

**Telephone Conversation Between  
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (FRBB) Staff  
and Representatives of the Center for American Progress  
August 20, 2010**

**Participants:** Scott Schuh, Joanna Stavins, Oz Shy, Tamas Briglevics, Dawn Hicks, Richard Walker and Patricia Allouise (FRBB)

David Balto (Center for American Progress)

**Summary:** Staff of the FRBB participated in a telephone conversation with David Balto, Senior Fellow for the Center for American Progress, to discuss the interchange fee provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Act”). Mr. Balto stated that he has strong relationships with consumer groups, and was involved in the legislative process which resulted in the debit card interchange and network fee provisions of the Act.

During the meeting, FRBB staff and Mr. Balto discussed the FRBB’s Survey of Consumer Payment Choice (SCPC) and new diary efforts, which are unrelated to the interchange fee rulemaking effort presently being conducted by the Federal Reserve Board. As part of this discussion, Mr. Balto recommended certain changes to the SCPC that would, in Mr. Balto’s opinion, be helpful to the Federal Reserve Board in connection with the interchange fee rulemaking process. Specifically, Mr. Balto recommended that the SCPC should—

- differentiate between signature and PIN debit;
- ask consumers if they are aware of incentives (reward programs) for signature debit card transactions vs. disincentives (fees/fines) for PIN debit transactions;
- ask whether there are actually discounts for certain types of payment instruments; and
- ask consumers whether they are aware of interchange related to credit and debit cards.