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October 7, 2008

The Honorable John M. Reich
Director
Office of Thrift Supervision
1700 G Street
Washington, D.C. 20552-0004

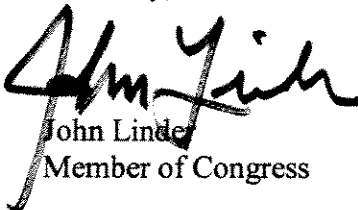
Dear Honorable Reich:

I am writing about the proposed regulations under consideration by the Federal Reserve Board, the Office of Thrift Supervision, and the National Credit Union Administration aimed at protecting credit cardholders. While I applaud your efforts to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive practices, I am concerned that some elements of this proposal may have the unintended consequence of limiting access to credit for certain underserved consumers.

Specifically, I have concerns with the proposal's restrictions on low-limit credit cards and its impact on credit availability to those consumers most in need. Low limit credit cards provide important access to the credit market to millions of borrowers who otherwise may have no credit. Low-limit credit cards enable underserved consumers to establish a credit rating or improve a blemished credit standing. While all consumers should be protected from predatory practices, all consumers likewise deserve access to credit, even borrowers labeled as high-risk.

As your agencies deliberate the final rules on acceptable credit card practices, I hope that your efforts to provide credit card consumers with protection against unfair and deceptive practices is done in a manner that preserves meaningful access to credit for consumers with substandard credit histories – a service especially valuable given the current challenges limiting credit availability.

Sincerely,



John Linder
Member of Congress

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