

From: Jim Lake
Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

Comments:

Dear Sirs,

I understand that you are allowing comment on bank overdraft policies, and as a consumer, I would like to make a comment.

First I would like to say I, like many, have suffered at the hand of credit card companies and their outlandish practices including late fees, over-limit fees, interest rate increases, slight of hand changes of closing dates and every other manipulation they can think of to gain more fees from me as a credit card holder because that industry went unregulated for so many years. Now, the banking industry is failing and tax pays like myself are "bailing out" the industry even as they quickly raise interest rates "due to catastrophic economic events" as my letter states. I know darn well it is a last ditch effort to raise my interest rate before new regulations go into effect and they cannot raise my limit while I have a balance. Sadly, how is a consumer to live in this economy without a credit card to use (for business purposes -reimbursable hotel business stays, travel expenses, emergency use -car repairs, etc.)?

I also have lived with banks who have gone far too long unregulated in their overdraft fees. \$35 for a single overdraft even if it a penny overdrawn? And that is \$35 daily until the error is noticed (usually by letter, several days and several days worth of fees later). And heaven forbid if another purchase is made after an overdraft because then there are even more overdrafts on top of that. I speak of personal experience when I say that a penny error once escalated to a nearly \$900 dollar penalty to my checking account before the error was even known to me. When I approached the bank, the bank made me wait over an hour to speak to the manager as if I were a student waiting to be disciplined by a principle and then "allowed" to have two or three charges credited back, still leaving me with several hundred charges in late fees. Mind you, this was a hole in my paycheck that I could barely recover from. This meant that I had bills that went unpaid because my automatically deposited check was eaten away by bank fees before I even discovered I had them.

I do have input. I believe that a bank should not be allowed to charge this high of an overdraft fee.

I believe that if funds are not available, a charge should not be allowed to go through and thus the overdraft fee should not be charged.

I believe that there should be a limit of one overdraft fee per occurrence and not charges daily, and certainly not compounded upon each purchase after (see above: if the funds are not available, the purchase should not be allowed to go through).

Yes, I understand a bank's argument that a consumer should be aware of his or her own available funds and budget accordingly. However, I believe that the banking industry purposely sets consumers up to fail and sets themselves up to profit from these exorbitant

Fee structures and it should be stopped. Now, if we the taxpayers can bail the

banking system out, I think they can change their system to help us out for a change!

James E Lake