

From: Darrin Howe
Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

Comments:

Dear Federal Reserve Board Director,

I do support requiring the financial institutions to have the consumer Opt-In to the Overdraft Protection Programs. I also support having the consumer OK any transaction that will cause the account to overdraft and generate a fee. The cost of an electronic transaction is in the range of a fraction of a penny per transaction. From a banking consumer point of view this practice makes the bank's charter look like a license to steal. A license granted by the government of the people and for the people. The overdraft fees also need to be addressed. My bank notified me by mail that they were raising the overdraft fee from \$27.00 to \$35.00. This increase came at the same time Washington Mutual's CEO and directors were saying that they were solvent. Of course we all now know they were at worst lying and at best incompetent. One thing is clear, the increase was driven by the bank management's need to extract more money from their customers who can least afford to pay these crazy rates. The banking industry has for too long ran over their customers with the balance sheet. I would like to see controls placed on the amount any financial institution can charge for an overdraft. And those controls should be tied to the actual cost of allowing an overdraft plus a reasonable fee for the bank. By reasonable I would say no more then 25% of the amount a customer went into the negative.

The unfair overdraft system must be corrected by the government as the financial industry has shown no desired to provide the overdraft service at a reasonable cost to the consumer.

Sincerely,

Darrin Howe