

UNFAIR CREDIT CARD FEES.COM

May 12, 2009

To: Members of the United States Senate

On behalf of our nation's main street retailers and our customers, the following undersigned associations represented by the Merchants Payments Coalition (MPC) encourage you to support a Consumer Discount and Fee Transparency amendment Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Kit Bond (R-MO) plan to offer when the Senate considers consumer credit card legislation this week. The Durbin-Bond amendment will increase transparency of credit card fees, and will allow merchants to offer a wider array of discounts to consumers.

Our members currently do not have the ability to offer a discount on debit cards and low-fee credit cards, which would greatly benefit both retailers and consumers. Although our member companies may be currently "technically" able to provide their customers a discount for cash and checks the sheer number of rules the credit card companies have in place make this all but impossible for businesses. Visa and MasterCard collect credit card interchange fees of roughly 2% or more on high-end rewards card purchases, which hinders the ability of storeowners to keep prices low for customers across the board.

Being able to discount for more affordable card products would be a win-win situation for everyone involved. Retailers would have the freedom to make their own pricing decisions while at the same time being able to help their customers who are looking for all opportunities to save money in this tough economy. Not to mention, customers would still have complete freedom to choose what type of payment they want to use.

Increased transparency surrounding these fees is also very important for both our customers, (most customers don't even know these fees exist) and for policymakers who will hopefully continue to work to address these uncontrollable fees that generated over \$48 billion in revenue last year at the expense of merchants and unaware consumers.

We strongly encourage you to support the Durbin-Bond Consumer Discount and Fee Transparency amendment as it takes the first step toward providing relief to consumers and retailers struggling to stay afloat in these tough economic times.

Respectfully,

Food Marketing Institute
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Grocers Association
National Retail Federation
Retail Industry Leaders Association
National Restaurant Association
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Association of College Stores
National Association of Truck Stop Operators
International Association of Airport Duty Free Stores

National Association of Theatre Owners
American Beverage Licensees
Bowling Proprietors Association of America
National Association of Shell Marketers
Interactive Travel Services Association
Society of American Florists
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America
International Franchise Association
National Franchise Association
Coalition of Franchisee Associations
National Small Business Association

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