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Secretary Jennifer Johnson
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20551

Dear Secretary Johnson-

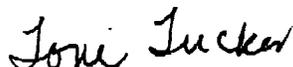
Even though we have been in business for thirty-three years, we are struggling. Over the last several years, I would estimate that we have lost at least fifty percent of our business. One of the reasons small businesses are floundering so much today is the overly inflated rates that credit card companies charge for processing debit card payments. These fees have been so excessive in some cases that they can really hurt a smaller company. The Durbin Amendment limits these fees, and I am in favor of a flat rate for each transaction.

Since around ninety-five percent of our sales are paid with either credit or debit cards, it was imperative that we find a company that would not overcharge us for fees. Until that time, we had been using our bank, Wachovia, but they could not compete with the lower priced companies. We had to go through about five or six different processing companies before we finally found one that offered much more reasonable rates. Believe me, they are hard to find.

We own our own building and have managed to keep all of our employees, of which there are nine including my husband Warren and me. We also continue to offer everyone a group health insurance policy, although I do not know how much longer we will be able to do that. So many retail stores in our area are out of business already that my goal is simply to remain open. Regulating interchange card fees and setting a cap for each transaction will help us to achieve that goal. Please continue to support these reforms to give small business the boost it needs.

Thank you for your service,

Toni Tucker



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