



June 7, 2011

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the National Association of College Stores and the undersigned associations, I am writing to ask you **to oppose the Tester Amendment, S. 575, the Debit Interchange Fee Study Act of 2011 and oppose any other efforts to delay debit card swipe fee reforms.** This legislation would delay and effectively kill debit card fee reforms scheduled to go into effect this July; reforms that will have a positive impact on colleges, universities, elementary and secondary schools, and the students and parents they serve.

Headquartered in Oberlin, Ohio, NACS is the professional trade association representing the collegiate and K-12 retailing community. We represent more than 3,100 collegiate and elementary and secondary bookstores including school owned and operated bookstores, non-profit student owned cooperatives, small privately owned bookstores, and contract managed bookstore companies. NACS member stores serve nearly 95% of America's 17.5 million college students while supporting the academic missions of education institutions.

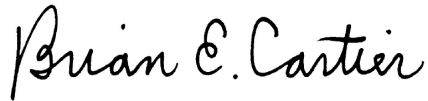
Last year Congress enacted reasonable and measured reform to the swipe fees that colleges and universities, K-12 schools, and other non-profits, and small family owned businesses pay Visa and MasterCard and the big banks every time a student, parent, or alumni pay or donate at these institutions and at collegiate and K-12 retail stores. In fact, according to a recent report by the National Association of College and University Business Officers found nearly 1/3 of all tuition and fee payments made to colleges and universities and nearly half of all tuition and fee payments made at community colleges in 2009 were subjected to excessively high interchange swipe fees.

Credit and debit purchases account for more than \$100 million annually in interchange fees paid by college bookstores and their student and parent customers. Excessive swipe fees that would otherwise be returned to students through lower textbook prices, supporting textbook rental programs, scholarships, and student services are being misdirected towards credit card companies and large banks.

Congress established a lengthy, deliberative, fair, and open process for the Federal Reserve to carry out needed debit swipe fee reforms and that process is still ongoing through July, yet the Tester Amendment is an attempt by the big banks to derail this process indefinitely. Every month of delay means higher costs for students and parents at a time when schools are being asked to do more with less funding.

We strongly encourage you stand up for education institutions, collegiate and K-12 retailers and our student and parent customers by **opposing the Tester Amendment and any other effort to delay implementation of these critically needed reforms.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian E. Cartier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian E. Cartier, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

The following associations join NACS in this statement:

Alabama College Bookstore Association
California Association of College Stores (AZ, CA, NV)
Campus Stores of New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)
College Stores Association of New York State
College Stores Association of North Carolina
Florida Association of College Stores
Georgia Association of College Stores
Illinois Association of College Stores
Indiana Association of College Stores
Michigan Association of College Stores
Middle Atlantic College Stores (DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA, WV)
Mid-States Association of College Stores (IA, KS, MO, NE)
New Mexico College Bookstore Association
Ohio Association of College Stores
Rocky Mountain Skyline Bookstore Association (CO, WY, NM, SD, NE, KS)
South Carolina Association of College Stores
Southwest College Bookstore Association (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)
Tennessee Association of College Stores
Tri-State Bookstore Association (MN, ND, SD)
West Virginia Association of College Stores
Wisconsin Association of College Stores