



The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Of Michigan

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June 3, 2011

Honorable Carl Levin
269 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Debit Card Swipe Fee Legislation

Dear Senator Levin:

On behalf of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, I am writing to urge you to support the debit swipe fee reforms that were included in the financial reform bill passed in the last Congress. I also want to express our strong opposition to any attempts to delay implementation of this critically important law.

Lowering debit interchange fees would provide a tremendous savings to our Tribe and, by extension, our customers. Our tribal business operations employ thousands of workers and we have thousands of loyal customers. Interchange fees are more expensive every year, causing an increase in retail prices. We would like to be able to maintain or reduce our fees and our retail prices, which in turn would help our customers save money. This is particularly true in a state like ours which has faced significant challenges in these tough economic times.

Though swipe fees are not disclosed publicly because of Visa and MasterCard card rules, they are included in the cost of every day goods and services. All consumers—whether they pay with plastic, check or cash—wind up shouldering the burden of these out-of-control fees.

In fact, low-income people who pay with cash are hit hardest by these unfair fees. A recent study has shown that swipe fees amount to a regressive transfer of wealth from low income to high income people.

Swipe fee reform will lower the fee on debit cards and allow our reservations' businesses to offer discounts for customers paying with debit card, cash or check.

Our Tribe strongly supports debit swipe fee reform. In these tough economic times, there is no reason to delay this overdue reform. We hope you will support Senator Durbin in his efforts to keep this process moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Kequom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dennis" and last name "Kequom" clearly distinguishable.

Dennis Kequom

Chief, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe