

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
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C. THOMAS KEEGEL
General Secretary-Treasurer

202.624.6800
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April 7, 2011

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I write to urge you to oppose efforts to delay implementation of debit card interchange fee reform as enacted in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Debit interchange fees or "swipe fees" are a growing cost of business and a concern for the supermarket and retail industries. Each time that a consumer swipes a debit card, the retailer is charged a percentage of the sale. That fee, hidden from customers, is reflected in higher prices, which impact our members as employees and as customers. Banks and credit card companies want these fees to remain hidden so that they can continue to reap large profits.

As enacted, the Durbin Amendment to the Dodd-Frank Act gives the Federal Reserve authority to limit the swipe fee that merchants pay for each debit-card transaction. The Durbin Amendment brings reasonable regulation to the \$20 billion per year debit interchange fee system which had previously been unregulated.

The current interchange system is uncompetitive, non-transparent and harmful to consumers. The Teamsters Union urges you to support interchange fee reform and oppose efforts to delay its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James P. Hoffa".

James P. Hoffa
General President

JPH:sm