



To: EFTA Members
From: Kurt Helwig, President & CEO
Date: October 12, 2011
Subject: Bipartisan Effort to Repeal Durbin Amendment

Later today Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and Representative Bill Owens (D-NY) will introduce legislation to repeal the “debit card interchange price provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and restore balance to the electronic payments system.”

The [Consumer Debit Card Protection Act](#) will repeal section 1075 of Dodd-Frank and void any regulation prescribed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve pursuant to it.

The proposed legislation also states that “nothing in this Act shall be construed as granting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau the authority to regulate debit or *credit* interchange fees.”

Rep. Chaffetz calls the Durbin Amendment a “perfect example of the dangers of price controls and the inefficiency of government intervention in the free market” as well as “an affront to the consumers and banking industry.”

Rep. Owen claimed that the Durbin Amendment “is harmful for community banks, credit unions and the communities they serve.” He went on to say that “while Congress clearly intended to exempt these smaller institutions from the cap on interchange fees, it is clear that the Durbin Amendment will have unintended costly consequences for my constituents and their checking accounts.”

Look for this to gain more attention as well as more sponsors and vocal opposition in the near future.