

Dear Credit Union Member:

Each time you use your debit or credit card, a merchant is paid immediately and the credit union that issues your card receives an interchange payment. This interchange reflects a merchant's fair share of the costs of this convenient system. The current interchange arrangement helps keep the rates and fees lower that you pay on debit and credit card programs provided to you by your credit union. Recently, the United States Senate passed legislation to reform the financial regulatory system and the legislation included provisions that would make changes to the card payment system. We are asking you to take a few minutes, following the directions below, to tell your Senators and Representatives that interchange should not be a part of the financial reform bill.

There are several important things that you should know about interchange fees:

- Interchange fees are not directly paid by the consumer; rather they are paid by the merchants, like Wal-Mart, to support the card payment system.
- Interchange fees help us to offer our members debit and credit cards that include quality service and very attractive rates and fees.
- Your credit union, not a merchant, is responsible for absorbing losses from fraud and unpaid balances associated with card programs. Interchange fees support everything from re-issuing cards compromised by merchant data breaches, to providing a call center to contact if your card is stolen, to many other essential program functions. If interchange were reduced and could no longer contribute adequate support for card programs, consumers would end up paying more for their debit and credit cards.

What can you do to support the debit and credit card programs at your credit union and set the record straight?

**Go to:**

<http://www.votervoice.net/Groups/INCUL/Advocacy/?IssueID=22057&SiteID=-1>

Please send a message to both of your Senators and your Representative urging them to oppose including interchange legislation in the financial reform bill that would affect debit and credit card-issuing credit unions and the card payment system.

This credit union is proud to offer you competitive and convenient debit and credit cards. Interchange payments help make that possible.

Sincerely,

Financial Partners FCU