



*****KEY VOTE ALERT*****

April 30, 2009

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I urge you to support H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights. While credit cards provide an important source of credit for many small business owners, our members are troubled by some of the business practices utilized by card companies.

According to a 2008 NFIB Small Business Poll, 74 percent of small employers have a business credit card. The Poll also showed that small business owners, as credit card consumers, often experienced unfair practices by the industry. For example, in the last 12 months 14 percent did not receive credit for payments until well after the payment cleared and 11 percent were charged overdraft fees when the overdrafts were the exclusive result of bank holds.

H.R. 627 ends unfair penalties on cardholders who pay on time, requires 45 days notice of all interest rate increases, prohibits arbitrary interest rate increases and establishes industry-wide definitions for common terms to deter deceptive marketing and advertising. These provisions can protect small business owners' credit by giving them enough notice to pay off debt and shop for competitive credit card offers so that they can continue to operate their businesses.

While our members favor the credit card reforms in H.R. 627, we are mindful that credit cards pay for approximately one of every six dollars of sales small businesses make. We believe this legislation does not unduly punish credit card companies in these tough economic times, but limits business practices that harm small business credit card holders.

**PASSAGE OF H.R. 627 MAY BE CONSIDERED AN NFIB KEY
VOTE FOR THE 111TH CONGRESS.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Eckerly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Susan Eckerly
Senior Vice President
Public Policy