



January 26, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the National Retail Federation (NRF), I write to express our support for S. 3623, the Credit Card Competition Act. This legislation would provide economic relief to retailers and consumers by injecting competition into the credit card payments routing market. **Please note that NRF will consider co-sponsorship of, and any votes on, S. 3623, the Credit Card Competition Act as part of the Retail Opportunity Index for our voting scorecard.**

NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies, and ideas that help retail succeed. From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$5.3 trillion to annual GDP and supporting more than one in four U.S. jobs – 55 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring, and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

Interchange or “swipe” fees totaled a record \$187.2 billion in 2024, up from \$172 billion in 2023. In fact, American retailers and merchants pay the highest swipe fee rates in the world, which has led to swipe fees being most retailers' highest cost after labor. Due to slim profit margins, retailers are unable to absorb these rising costs, resulting in the average American family paying over \$1,200 a year in higher prices. These significant and inflationary economic impacts are driven by the fact that Visa and Mastercard control 80% of the credit card market, enabling the two networks to centrally set interchange rates by banks that issue their cards. The lack of competition in the market has driven up costs for businesses and consumers and limited innovation.

The Credit Card Competition Act seeks to remedy this unfair and broken market by requiring credit card-issuing financial institutions with \$100 billion or more in assets to enable at least two unaffiliated networks — Visa or Mastercard plus a competing credit card network or independent network — to route credit card transactions. This would finally force Visa and Mastercard to compete with other networks over fees, security and service, just like every other American business. Competition in the credit card routing market is estimated to save businesses and consumers \$17 billion a year in swipe fees. These savings would allow retailers to invest in and grow their business and better serve their customers and the communities they serve.

This bipartisan legislation ensures that only the nation's largest financial institutions — 30 banks and one credit union — are subject to its requirements. Community banks, local credit unions and other smaller financial institutions are completely exempt, which may position them as more attractive options for credit card networks. In addition, increased competition would result in innovations in service and security, as seen following debit reform. Security enhancements are sorely needed in the credit card market as the U.S. leads the world in card fraud, accounting for 41.87% of global fraud losses while only accounting for 26.31% of global card volume.

At a time when affordability is top of mind for the American consumer, the Credit Card Competition Act offers an opportunity to address the broken credit card market that forces ever-rising costs on businesses and consumers. We urge you to support S. 3623, the Credit Card Competition Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French".

David French
Executive Vice President
Government Relations

cc: Members of the U.S Senate