



August 3, 2023

Via Email: [beth\\_pearson@warren.senate.gov](mailto:beth_pearson@warren.senate.gov)

The Honorable Elizabeth A. Warren  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2104

Dear Senator Warren,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Bankers Association's (MBA) more than 130 commercial, savings and cooperative banks and federal savings institution members with over 72,000 employees across the Commonwealth and New England, thank you for **not** co-sponsoring **S.1838: *Credit Card Competition Act of 2023***.

In June, the [MBA joined](#) the American Bankers Association (ABA) and 50 other state banking associations to oppose **S.1838** over concerns that the legislation would weaken community banks, negatively impact the integrity of consumer privacy and protection, reduce credit card benefits and raise costs on consumers.

**S.1838** is particularly detrimental to lower- and middle-class individuals and families who rely on such benefits programs to supplement their budgets. **S.1838** stands to benefit only large retailers and merchants and increase their profits margins, while families across Massachusetts and the United States pay more for fewer benefits.

As you know, the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010 included language crafted with a goal to reduce debit card interchange fees and promote competition in the payment-processing industry – a goal similar to the intent of **S.1838**. However, research has since shown that small businesses have experienced increased costs, consumers have not enjoyed lower prices for goods and community banks and credit unions “saw their [per-transaction compensation cut by over 25%](#).” Because of this, we are concerned that **S.1838** would similarly impact the millions of Americans who receive cash-back and other rewards via credit card transactions.

At a time when individuals and families are paying more out of pocket for everyday necessities like groceries, gas, childcare and more, legislation that has the potential to diminish any benefits afforded to them via credit card benefits programs should be met with strong opposition.

We are grateful for the opportunity to express our concerns on **S.1838: *Credit Card Competition Act of 2023***. Once again, thank you for **not** co-sponsoring this legislation that would have a significant financial impact on families and community banks across Massachusetts.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Papalardo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad S. Papalardo, Esq.  
Senior Vice President,  
Chief of Government Affairs & Counsel