



June 28, 2023

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lance Gooden
United States House of Representatives
2431 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Marshall
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building, Suite 479A
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
United States House of Representatives
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable JD Vance
United States Senate
288 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
United States House of Representatives
451 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
United States Senate
SR-124 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Van Drew
United States House of Representatives
2447 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Durbin, Senator Marshall, Senator Vance, Senator Welch, Congressman Gooden, Congressman Lofgren, Congressman Tiffany, and Congressman Van Drew:

The below undersigned organizations from Small Business Rising — a coalition of small business membership associations representing more than 250,000 independent businesses — are writing to thank you as the co-sponsors of the recently introduced bipartisan, bicameral Credit Card Competition Act and to underscore the urgency for Congress to pass this legislation.

Concentrated market power is the single biggest threat facing independent businesses, and it has become clear we have a financial system that benefits behemoth corporations at the expense of ordinary people and small businesses. Our coalition partners have identified exorbitant credit card interchange fees — also known as swipe fees — as a top issue undermining their small business members, who report that swipe fees are now their highest expense after payroll, even though Visa and Mastercard add only nominal value to the goods and services these merchants provide. What's more, swipe fees increase the cost of food and goods for the average American family by \$1,000 a year according to 2022 figures from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Absent competition, Visa controls 60 percent of credit and debit card transactions, while Mastercard accounts for 25 percent. American Express captures most of the rest and leads in certain sub-markets. This means that a large cross-section of American spending is essentially subject to a monopoly tax imposed by two mega-corporations. Consumers and businesses pay more, while Visa and Mastercard

reap the surplus and share gains with a small handful of big banks. Just four banks — Chase, Wells Fargo, Citi, and Bank of America — issue about half of all credit cards.

This monopoly rent-seeking disproportionately harms small businesses. While large corporations, such as Amazon and Walmart, have some leverage to negotiate better rates, independent businesses have little choice but to pay whatever the banks and networks demand.

This 'duopoly' power must be addressed through legislation like the Credit Card Competition Act, which will prevent Visa and MasterCard from forcing merchants to use their card networks to process payments, resulting in significant fee reductions for small businesses. This legislation is pro-consumer, pro-small business, and should be a top priority in Congress this summer.

Signed by:

Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding

American Booksellers Association

American Independent Business Alliance

American Specialty Toy Retailing Association

Austin Local Business Alliance

Cambridge Local First

Dane Buy Local

Independent Restaurant Coalition

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

The Local Crowd Monadnock

Local First Arizona

Local First, La Plata

Local Return

Louisville Independent Business Alliance

Love Live Local Inc.

Lowcountry Local First

Main Street Alliance

National Bicycle Dealers Association

National Community Pharmacists Association

National Grocers Association

National Sporting Goods Association

New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association

North American Hardware and Paint Association

North American Marine Alliance

People First Economy

Shop Local Raleigh

Spokane Independent Metro Business Alliance

StayLocal an initiative of Urban Conservancy

Workplace Solutions Association

World Pet Association

Running Industry Association

cc

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Chair, United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Scott
Ranking Member, United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker, United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Chair, United States House Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters,
Ranking Member, United States House Financial Services Committee
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

About Small Business Rising

Small Business Rising, a coalition of nearly 40 organizations representing more than 250,000 independent businesses, formed in 2021 to urge policymakers to rein in monopoly power and inject fairness into a system that has long left small businesses at a competitive disadvantage. [The Hill](#) described the coalition as "playing a pivotal role in high-profile debates over antitrust," and helping "sway lawmakers to advance legislation to break up the largest tech companies through the House Judiciary Committee."

Together, members of the coalition and small business voices have calling for Congress to stop tech monopolies, like Amazon, from cornering the online market by breaking them up and regulating them, for states to pass robust antitrust laws, and for Federal regulators to use their enforcement authorities to block dominant corporations from engaging in abusive tactics. For media inquiries, please email [media\[at\]smallbusinessrising\[dot\]net](mailto:media@smallbusinessrising.net) | SmallBusinessRising.net.