



# Action Alert

March 3, 2008

## **Rally in Washington on April 8-9 to Meet with Your Representatives and Senators Ask them to Support and be a Co-sponsor of the Credit Card Fair Fee Act.**

Now is the time for grassroots action by N.G.A. members. In an earlier Action Alert you were advised of efforts by Visa, MasterCard and their banks to oppose legislation supported by N.G.A. and others in the Merchant Payments Coalition to level the playing field on credit card interchange fees. It is time for you and your company to make a difference and speak out forcefully in support of the Credit Card Fair Fee Act, which is expected to be introduced before the Congressional recess on March 12.

The Merchants Payments Coalition (MPC), of which the National Grocers Association is a leading member, is working with Representative John Conyers (D-MI), Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Representative Chris Cannon (R-UT), to introduce the legislation to reform the unfair, broken credit card interchange fee system, titled the Credit Card Fair Fee Act. The Act aims to restore competition to the credit card system and provide merchants with the opportunity to negotiate fair credit card interchange fees with VISA and MasterCard. Both Chairman Conyers and Representative Cannon have indicated that they will co-sponsor and introduce the bill. Senator Durbin (D-IL), member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Majority Whip/Assistant Majority Leader, is considering similar legislation.

### **Grocers Grassroots Action Needed!**

#### **Grocers Must Rally for a Day in Washington in Support of the Credit Card Fair Fee Act.**

This is the time grocers and other merchants have been working toward for almost three years. There have been House and Senate Judiciary Committee hearings. Members of Congress know there is a problem, now grocers need to tell them to support, co-sponsor and vote for the solution.

N.G.A. and the Food Marketing Institute will hold a "Day in Washington" on April 8-9 to meet with members of Congress **to get their commitment to support and co-sponsor the Credit Card Fair Fee Act.** Plan on arriving for the 4:00 p.m. briefing session on Tuesday April 8 followed by a hosted reception and dinner on your own. On Wednesday April 9 there will be a breakfast with Congressional speakers followed by meetings with members of Congress from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. More details will be forthcoming.

**Register Today! Because of the importance of this issue to the industry there is no registration fee, but to know who is attending for the briefing and Congressional visits, register today!**

**Hotel Accommodations:** Due to the nature of this year's meeting attendees must make their own hotel reservations. N.G.A. suggests that you explore a web based site like "Travelocity" to get the best accommodations near Capitol Hill. **Note: It will be Cherry Blossom time in Washington, D.C., which is a very popular time of the year and hotel accommodations are expected to be tight. So book now.** If you require further assistance in making hotel arrangements, please contact Jennifer Brant at [jbrant@nationalgrocers.org](mailto:jbrant@nationalgrocers.org) or call 703-516-8829.