



Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

PO Box 277, 3322 236th Street NE
Arlington, WA 98223

May 6, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians' Support for the Credit Card Competition Act, H.R. 3881 and S. 1838

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians achieved federal recognition and treaty rights in 1976. The Tribe's 64 acres of land was recognized as a reservation in 2014. We have several tribal facilities and businesses located on the reservation, near the Stillaguamish River, in Snohomish County, Washington. Our Tribal headquarters are located in Arlington, Washington.

Our tribal businesses serve tribal members and others through our convenience stores and other businesses. These businesses are consistently and increasingly disadvantaged, however, by sky-high credit card fees.

These fees are much higher for our businesses than they are for businesses in other nations around the world. In fact, the fees are more than seven times higher for our businesses, for example, than similar businesses in Europe. The dominance of two companies setting the credit card swipe fee rates that the largest financial institutions in the United States all charge our businesses is so overwhelming that even we, as sovereign nations, are powerless to negotiate

with them or comparison shop for better deals as we do with all other suppliers to our businesses. This situation undermines our tribal sovereignty and we have no market options to address it.

That is why we strongly support the Credit Card Competition Act and urge you to pass it as soon as possible. This bill is bipartisan in both the House and the Senate. The problem of anticompetitive credit card fees has been examined many times by Congress over many years. There have been seventeen hearings on this topic to date. It is time for action.

Estimates are that the Credit Card Competition Act would save businesses like our local convenience stores and their customers more than \$10,000 per year at each store location. That would be a critical boost to the buying power of tribal members and would increase sales for our businesses as customers have more money in their pockets to spend. This combination would increase economic development, jobs and quality of life for tribal members.

We ask for your support on this critical issue. Our sovereignty should not be impugned by huge credit card companies and Wall Street banks. Tribal businesses and tribal members need the Credit Card Competition Act to become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric White', with a stylized, flowing line extending to the right.

Eric White, Chairman
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians