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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

June 30, 2006

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
COMMISSIONER

522418-70221

Anna Davis
Director, Office of Congressional Relations
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Room 404
Washington, District of Columbia 20580

Dear Ms. Davis:

Enclosed please find correspondence I received from my constituents regarding the Federal Trade Commission's Business Opportunity Rule, 16 CFR Part 437, which is currently pending before the FTC.

I would greatly appreciate your submitting my constituent's comments on the proposed rule. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden
United States Senator



rw/jaj

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Constituent

Voldengen, Linda

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Web Mail Message

Web Mail Subject: WEBMAILnov10

We live in Oregon and need your help. For the past 6 1/2 years my husband and I have worked with a NYSE traded company called Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc. as independent associates. We market prepaid legal service plans and identity theft detection and restoration services. In addition to commissions we earn for marketing the services, part of our income comes from leveraging our time and efforts by recruiting and training other sales associates.

It has come to our attention that the FTC has proposed a new "business opportunity" rule (16 CFR Part 437) This proposal will place extremely unfair administrative burdens on us in trying to do our business and will have a drastic negative effect on our home based business and full time income.

The FTC proposal would require a 7 day waiting period before a prospect could sign up with Pre-Paid Legal Services. This would provide a tremendous record keeping burden and would certainly have a chilling effect on many small businessmen and women.

The FTC would require us to provide a list of the 10 nearest prior purchasers of the business opportunity to all potential prospects. This would require me to continually contact Pre-Paid Legal to get these names and would be a violation of the privacy rights of new associates and increase the risk of identity theft.

The FTC would require me to provide a list of the lawsuits filed against the company going back for the last 10 years. There is no distinction between frivolous and law suits of merit. Publically traded companies are often singled out for most any reason whether or not they have done anything to deserve it. This would require us to call the company every quarter and again will be an burden to us to say nothing about how this list will affect new prospects.

While the FTC may be well intentioned, this proposal is very ill conceived and should not be allowed to stand as it is presently being proposed. All sales companies recruit new sales people but because we work as independents, we would be unfairly penalized. Please call the FTC and stop this proposal. Thank you for your consideration and help in this matter.

Hans and Linda Voldengen

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
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ORIG. COMPLES. BRANCH