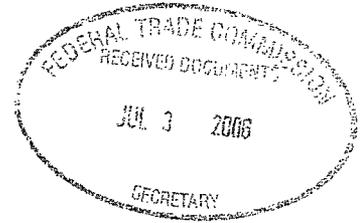


June 23, 2006

522418-70667



Rosemarie Barbour

Re: Business Opportunity Rule R511993

Dear Sir or Madam,

I felt compelled to write as I am very concerned about the proposed *Business Opportunity Rule R511993*.

I have been affiliated with direct sales companies for approximately 30 years and am currently an Independent Designer with Home & Garden Party®.

I understand and appreciate that there should be guidelines to follow which are currently in place to protect potential recruits, salespersons and companies in the direct selling business. However, I believe in the old adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

A little over a year ago, I left Longaberger. Not because of any unethical practices on their part but, instead, because in today's market, I no longer felt comfortable seeking out only customers who could afford expensive products. I knew, though, that I wanted to stay in direct sales. It has been fun and has afforded me flexibility and the opportunity to make many new friends over the years. So, I began searching for a direct sales company that had much to offer their customers and their recruits. To make a long story short, I prepared a 3-page list of questions to ask my potential recruiter. She was extremely caring, answered all of my questions and did not try to pressure me into making any immediate decision.

Home & Garden Party® offered nearly everything I was looking for. What "was" missing was very minor and would only take some readjusting on my part from what I had been used to. I went to the interview prepared and I was given the right to choose.

I am very proud to be with Home & Garden Party® because they continually remind us (the sales force) how important it is to always project a professional image and to also uphold the ethical standards that we agree to abide by when we sign on with them. Home & Garden Party® affords us the opportunity to choose how much or how little we want to work on our business and they apply no pressure with regard to sales or recruiting.

In this great country of ours, we are all given the freedom to choose who we decide to work for and we are also given the freedom to seek legal council if we feel a company has been less than honest with us.

In my view, it is very unnecessary to impose such severe restrictions on one segment of the sales industry.

During the lengthy time frame that I have been in direct sales, I have seen hundreds of people sign on and many leave. I don't know one single person that left because the company misrepresented themselves in any way but, instead, because we all have a tendency to believe that we will end up being the "star" or the "quarterback" or the "olympic champion" of the direct selling team. And then, a few months down the road, we begin to realize that this job takes hard work and perseverance just like any other job. Most of the time, when we complain as a new recruit, it is simply because our enormous egos aren't in check and we dream big but aren't willing to accept the fact that dreaming does "not" get the job done. I am not one of those shining

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stars at Home & Garden Party®. The reason is because "I" haven't worked hard enough to grab that star. The company has placed all of the necessary tools right in front of me.

I am, however, extremely proud of the way I conduct my business and I feel this proposed *Business Opportunity Rule R511993* will serve to present an extremely negative image to current customers, potential customers and potential recruits alike.

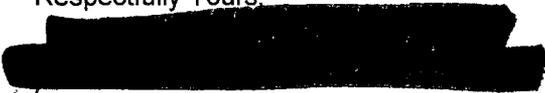
The negative impact of this proposed *Rule* will certainly affect all who work so hard in direct sales. Not to mention the section of this Rule that also, I feel, invades a person's right to privacy with regard to their personal information being shared with total strangers. As a recruit myself, I see no positive benefit that will come from this proposed *Business Opportunity Rule R511993*. Both the FTC and the DSWA have done a wonderful job of setting guidelines for direct selling companies for many years. I believe that those unethical companies who pose as legitimate direct selling companies while covering up pyramid schemes should, of course, be dealt with directly without involving the majority of salespeople who work very hard every day to see that customers and new recruits receive the care they deserve.

There are many more great direct selling companies than greedy, dishonest ones. There are also many major companies/organizations that recruit into their sales force with great frequency and see many of those recruits leave in a short period of time. Insurance companies and auto dealerships to name a couple.

I do appreciate the regulations you have set and are currently implementing. They have been of great benefit to me personally and to, I am certain, thousands of other men and women who are in the direct selling industry and their customers and recruits.

In conclusion, I ask that you reconsider the need for this proposed new *Business Opportunity Rule R511993* because it quite clearly targets legitimate direct selling businesses such as Home & Garden Party®.

Respectfully Yours,


Rosemarie Barbour
Home & Garden Party®
Independent Designer