

From: <Dranders@aol.com>
To: FTC.SERIOUS("tsr@ftc.gov")
Date: Fri, Mar 22, 2002 11:57 AM
Subject: "Do Not Call" registry

March 22, 2002

Office of the Secretary
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Room 159
Washington, NC 20580

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of North Carolina, to express our objections to the Federal Trade Commission's proposal to amend the Telemarketing Sales Rule. The proposed application of a national "do not call" registry to our organization is unfair, unwise and unworkable.

As fire fighters, we make it our business to serve our communities to the greatest extent possible. Our fire fighter organization is a non-profit entity that relies extensively upon small gifts from a large number of people to support numerous charitable activities. Through such contributions, our affiliates have been able to give away thousands of smoke detectors to the elderly and low income and educate thousands of children how to get out of a fire alive through the purchase of over 10 Children's Fire Safety Houses. Firefighters in North Carolina have been able to also donate 10's if thousand's of dollars to flood victim's, Red Cross, Salvation Army and numerous other North Carolina citizen's who have fallen on hard times.

The proposed rule is unfair because it would create a "do not call" registry maintained by the federal government that would apply to fundraising calls made on behalf of our organization to support our charitable activities, but would not apply to politicians' fundraising calls or phone solicitations by banks, telephone companies and insurance companies. Beyond being unfair, this simply does not make sense.

The proposed rule is unwise because it would prohibit our organization from contacting individuals on the "do not call" list even if they had consistently donated to our organization in the past and would still like to do so in the future. At a time when government is relying upon non-profits and charities to do more, it should not undermine the ability of organizations such as our own to provide valuable services to the public.

Finally, the proposed rule is unworkable because it violates our First Amendment right to contact members of the public. The Supreme Court has consistently held that any limitations on free speech must be narrowly drawn and use the least intrusive means. This rule satisfies neither of these requirements and further violates the Constitution because it favors calls from commercial interests, such as banks and insurance companies, over calls made on behalf of non-profits.

Please reconsider this amendment in light of these concerns, and reject the proposal to apply the "do not call" registry to calls made on behalf of non-profit organizations.

Sincerely,

David R. Anders, President