

DAN BURTON
5TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEES:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

RANKING MEMBER

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

FORMER CHAIRMAN

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT

REFORM

FORMER CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEES:

NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DOMESTIC POLICY



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1405

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2308 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1405
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2278

DISTRICT OFFICES:
8900 KEYSTONE AT THE CROSSING
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46240
TELEPHONE: (317) 848-0201
TOLL-FREE: (800) 382-6020

205 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET
MARION, IN 46962
TELEPHONE: (765) 662-6770
TOLL-FREE: (877) 846-2936

www.house.gov/burton

September 17, 2009

The Honorable Jon Leibowitz
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20580

Re: The Telemarketing Sales Rule

Dear Chairman Leibowitz:

I am writing to request that the Commission extend the period for public comment for 120 days in the matter of the amendments to 16 C.F.R. Part 310 outlined in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in Telemarketing Sales Rule, 74 FR 41988. The NPRM was published in the Federal Register on August 19, 2009, and the comment period deadline is currently set for October 9, 2009.

The NPRM involves important issues of vital concern to many Members of Congress. Due to the August recess and the press of Congressional business, many Members will be unable to give proper consideration to the issues under the current timetable. Indeed, I believe many interested members of the public will also be unable to participate fully in the comment process given the short time available.

Therefore, I request that you extend the comment period in this matter for 120 days.

Sincerely,

Dan Burton
Member of Congress

cc: David Vladeck, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection



THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

October 2, 2009

The Honorable Dan Burton
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Burton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed amendments to the Telemarketing Sales Rule covering debt relief services. Your letter requested that the Commission extend the period for public comment on the proposed rule by 120 days, especially because it would be difficult for lawmakers to file comments after only a few weeks back from the Congressional recess.

I agree that the proposed rule involves important issues, and we welcome comments on the proposal. To date, the Commission has received 29 comments, including some comments from industry members, and has not otherwise received any requests to extend the period for public comment. Nevertheless, the Commission has voted to extend the comment period by 15 days, to Monday, October 26, 2009, thereby allowing additional time for commenters to submit their comments without causing undue delay. Of course, the Commission always welcomes and considers comments from members of Congress, even if submitted after the comment period closes.

As you may know, the FTC staff is holding a public forum on November 4 to discuss the comments received on the proposed rule and allow members of the public a further opportunity to express their views. Requests to participate in the public forum are due on October 9, 2009. More information about the public forum can be found at the FTC's website, at www.ftc.gov/opa/2009/08/tsrforum.shtm.

We appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let us know whenever we can be of service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Leibowitz".
Jon Leibowitz
Chairman