

SUE MYRICK
9TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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May 6, 2002

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Mr. Timothy Muris
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Room 159
Washington, D.C. 20580

Dear Chairman Muris:

I am writing to you concerning the proposed Telemarketing Sales Rule (TSR) changes you recently announced and the significant impact these measures will have on an industry that is important to the national economy and the sale of goods and services.

As you know, the teleservices industry in the United States employs over six million people, many in the state of North Carolina. These employees process millions of transactions for satisfied customers and organizations every month. The teleservices industry is an integral part of our nation's commerce and trade. The FTC, to the extent provided by law, should continue efforts to identify and hold accountable those firms engaged in inappropriate and illegal activities. However, in addressing issues that exist in the industry, I would hope that you will not create rules that make it extremely difficult for the many legitimate and law-abiding teleservices firms to conduct business.

Several states have implemented their own version of a Do Not Call list and the industry itself maintains such a list. How would the national list that has been proposed work and who would fund it? In addition, past Congressional intent on this subject has been directed to the Federal Communications Commission as the responsible agency, not the FTC.

Finally, the FTC does not have jurisdiction over many entities, such as banks, federal credit unions, long-distance telephone companies, airlines, and most insurance companies. Intrastate calls are also not regulated by the FTC. As a result, the proposed rule will further fragment an industry based on who you do and do not regulate. This regulation should equally apply to all businesses.

The telemarketing industry is already very heavily regulated. In your attempts to address legitimate concerns about abuses in the industry, I ask that you not punish those businesses who comply with the law and not cause economic hardship for the millions of American workers and consumers who participate in the teleservices industry.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please contact me or my Legislative Director, Jayda Justus, at 202-225-1976 with any questions. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

SM/jj