

Federal Trade Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Suite CC-5610 (Annex C)  
Washington, DC 20580

August 6, 2018

Linda Banks

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21st Century Hearing, Project Number P181201

Big companies are collecting and selling my personal data. I don't want anyone selling my personal information without my permission. There are weeks when we receive up to twenty unwanted telephone calls about services we are not interested in, nor have inquired about. I don't think these companies are following the rules. For example, I am on the no call list, but someone is not following that rule.

I frequently use Google, Google search, Facebook and Amazon. I skim through the terms and conditions. I do not think the average person can understand all that legal language, and a lot of people are gullible. Consumers do not know what the companies are doing with our information, but it is obvious that they are trying to sell us products over the phone and elsewhere. It only makes sense that no one should have my personal information without my explicit permission. As consumers, we should be made aware of what is being done behind our backs, in secret and without our knowledge.

More competition is always better for consumers. The general rule is more competition creates better control over companies. The consumer usually wins if there is more competition going on. If we had a list of companies that treat their consumers better, we would definitely use a company who treats us better. No one wants their personal data sold.

Consumers need more options to avoid being taken advantage of. We have freedom of speech in this country; all sides should be heard. One side should not be silenced, and one group should not be able to decide what we hear. I feel our own President wants to silence people that speak negatively of him. That should not happen.

My credit card was used in another state by an unknown person. My credit card company notified me via email and a letter in the mail. They took care of the loss and I did not lose any money, but the experience made me feel horrible and unsafe. Every time I use my card now, I question whether it is a safe company I am purchasing from.

Sincerely,

Linda Banks –