

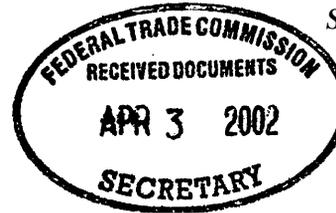


CHATTANOOGA FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Local 820

Mike Baronavski
President

Chip O'Dell
Secretary-Treasurer



March 23, 2002

Office of the **Secretary**
Federal **Trade** Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Room 159
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Sir/Madam:

I **am** writing letter to you on behalf of Chattanooga Fire Fighters Association to express our objection 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 professional fire fighters, we make it **our** business to serve **our** communities to the greatest extent possible. The Chattanooga Fire Fighters Association is a non-profit entity that relies extensively upon small **gifts** from large number of people to support numerous charitable activities. **Through** these contributions, we have been able to support positively the following organizations and programs in and around **our community**:

- **Burned out Families Program**, where **as** we provide help to families that have been displaced from their homes due **to** fire.
Smoke **Detector** Program, we provide smoke detectors at no cost not only to **our** community but also surrounding communities **as** well and also for the hearing impaired.
- Charitable Organizations, we assist **the** organizations with programs that **our** not Federally funded, some like Camp Discovery, Chattanooga Speech & Hearing, Orange Grove, Erlangers Oncology Dept., the list goes on to numerous to elaborate in this letter.
- Sponsor **10 Baseball Teams**, **through** out **our** community
- Scholarship Program, for firefighters dependents to help assist with College cost
- **Regional Burn Camp**, we have been working with local hospitals burn center to help build a Southeastern Regional **Burn** Camp here in **Chattanooga**. That benefit all **burn** victims in the Southeast and more.
- **Assistance** for fellow firefighters **and/or** their families who suffer due to **serious** illness or line of duty death or disease.
- Fire Prevention **Week**, during which we provide kindergarten **and** elementary school children **with** fun, attention-getting educational materials promoting FIRE safety.

International Association of Fire Fighters

We have many more beneficial programs too numerous and involved to elaborate in this letter.

This 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 and programs, 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 any sense.

This proposed rule is unwise because it would prohibit **our** organization **from** contacting individuals on the “do not call” list **who** have consistently donated in the past and continue to do **so** in the future. At a time when the government is relying upon non-profits and charities to do more, it should not undermine the ability of **our** organization to provide valuable services to the public.

Finally, **this** 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,



Mike Baronavski,
President CFFA, L-820

Cc: Harold A. Shaitberger, IAFF General President
Senator Fred Thompson
Senator Bill Frist
Congressman William L. Jenkins 1st District
Congressman **John J. Duncan** 2nd District
Congressman Zach Wamp 3rd District
Congressman **Van** Hilleary 4th District
Congressman **Bob** Clement 5th District
Congressman **Pat** Gordon 6th District
Congressman Ed Bryant 7th District
Congressman John S. Tanner 8th District
Congressman Harold E. Ford 9th District



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