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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
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APR 21 2004

SECRETARY

Re: CAN-SPAM Act Rulemaking, Project No. R411008

To the Commissioners:

Thank you for your efforts to control the problem of unsolicited bulk email. But, there are some concerns I have about the proposed requirement for merchants to maintain a suppression list. I also receive and send emails and many times, I refer others to sites and business, that I know, they are interested in. I do not feel anyone has the right to control my freedom of speech. In this case email, that I send to others, pertaining to business or refer to a business or product. How, why or who has the right to control or censor my email, in any manner? At the bottom of each advertisement or unsolicited email you can unsubscribe, so why do I need someone to do it for me? I want to control my email and what I send, and to who I send things to. What next? What will someone want to control in my life. These are my human rights that are being threatened. It's not just about email, but it is just the tip of the iceberg. This ruling will open the door for many other rulings. Not all will be good, it will control too many of our rights, as a free person! I urge you to really think about the ramifications this ruling of Project No: R411008 will have on our individual rights.

There are so many problems and other considerations associated with this idea, so much damage can be done to consumers and businesses alike, that I feel I must urge you to consider this matter most carefully. The red tap, the immense amount of work, time and money, to even start a suppression list is just too staggering to comprehend. The requirement of the use of a suppression list will seriously damage many of the legitimate publications, available on the net. My specific concern is the harm to publishers who require permission from the consumer prior to adding them to any list.


They're not who CAN-SPAM was designed to put out of business, but this requirement will very likely have that effect.

There's also the potential for significant harm to consumers, because of the problem of properly knowing their intent when they unsubscribe from a list. On top of that, these suppression lists could easily fall into the hands of spammers, leading to more spam instead of less.

Like I stated, in the above paragraphs. I was very surprised at the potential problems this ruling could involve. It is far more involved and reaching than in control of our (my) email. It is only a start to other more serious issues. I urge you to reconsider, in the strongest possible terms the implementation of these problems. This ruling can do nothing other than create problems in another form.

Thank you,

Joseph Anderson



Florida, USA