Comment #: 108 February 24 2004

Mrs. Deborah Schueler National Association of Realtors South Carolina United States

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment. I am a Realtor in South Carolina. My business practice relies on the ability

to make phone calls to persons who are trying to sell their homes themselves (For Sale By Owners), Expired Listings (those listings that have expired in our database), and Withdrawn Listings (those listings for whatever reason have been removed from the database). In my two years of real estate, I have never had anyone tell me they were upset I had called to ask them if I could help them with the sale of their home representing one of the above categories. Because I am NOT actually selling a product, and I am really trying to help these people with the sale of their home, I feel Realtors as a whole group, should not be included on the FTC regulation of the Do Not Call Regulation. I agree with the regulation of any persons real estate or not, calling arbitrarily any numbers for the purpose of soliciting. I myself, and many others do not operate in this manner. Especially for the FSBO's, (for sale by owners) they advertise their home for sale. We are now not allowed to call these people unless we are actively working with a buyer in our car, interested in that particular home. Many people who registered on the do not call list, have no idea that Realtors are precluded.

I object to the blanket covering of the law, the way it reads now, and this has affected my ability to support my family. I have seen a drastic

decrease in the number of listings available for sale, as well as the actual numbers of qualified, un-registered, persons that I am allowed to call. If I were actually harrassing or soliciting people, I would be the first to admit that this was a good law. I believe that what was meant to help, has actually hurt millions of Realtors and others who are in no way, shape,or form harassing individuals. This was supposed to stop the harrassing calls by phone companies, credit card companies and sales pitch calls that are called by computers on a dial by number system. This has had a huge impact across the board, that many people have had to quit the business and find other forms of work. I thankfully, have a husband who is in the Air Force, however, our ability to provide for our family has been directly affected by this law. I cannot afford to mail thousands of direct marketing pieces to every zipcode in my area. Calling a select few, I was able to offer assistance, and secure clients at the cost of a local call, which is free. I urge you to please take into consideration the large numbers of people who are now seeking other employment, which has affected other job types too. Home inspectors are affected, there are not as many homes to inspect, appraisers and others who relied on our business to support their families.

I am desperately urging that this law be re-thought and re-worked to be considerate of the types of businesses that are affected. There is now less tax money we are paying as a direct result of our ability to list and sell homes. Our loss of income will result ultimately in your loss of income.