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Accepting that political telemarketers enjoy certain free speech exceptions from the TCPA, there are still certain behaviors engaged in by political telemarketers that cross the line between free speech and interfering with telecommunication services.

One of these behaviors that is especially egregious is the robocall political town hall, where a political telemarketer calls a phone line, and without verifying whether a live person answered the phone, places the call into a "town hall" teleconference. One of these calls can tie up a phone line for 20 minutes or more, and fill voice mailboxes to the point where other legitimate messages cannot be received. Often, much of the content of these messages is dead air, procedural announcements, and other background noise having no practical political or free speech purpose.

When the FCC acknowledged political telemarketers' rights to make calls under the province of free speech, I sincerely doubt that it was envisioned that political telemarketers would abuse this freedom to filibuster citizens' phone lines in this way, denying consumers the legitimate and often paid use of telecommunications services by tying up phone lines and filling voice mailboxes.

I hope that the FCC looks into this matter and issues new guidance or rules to political telemarketers discouraging this abuse of consumer telecommunication services. At the very least, it should not be permissible to place a voice mailbox or other answering service into any sort of teleconference without express written permission of the consumer of that voice mailbox or answering service.

Thank you for your consideration.