

Not a day goes by where I don't receive at least two hangup calls, and most days I get calls from telemarketers. These calls are not only frustrating, but are also disturbing because of the aggressiveness of many telemarketers. Often times, even though I refuse an offer (usually by saying "No thanks, I'm not interested"), the telemarketer will either continue their sales pitch, or protest my disinterest. Responses have ranged from "But sir, this is a terrific offer!" to "Remember, I'm not trying to sell you anything today..", even once getting, "You'd have to be an idiot to turn down this offer!!" These calls are rude and invasive, unnecessarily interrupt the flow of my day. Telemarketing should be outlawed completely; perhaps exceptions can be made for regulated charities seeking donations on a limited basis. The idea of a national do-not-call list (opt-out) is a first step. However, an ideal situation would be an opt-in system where telemarketers could not call anyone unless they opted to be called. A national opt-in list is better than a national opt-out list, but either would be a good start.