

I'm writing to urge you to *please* create a national do-not-call list, and to do anything else in your power to protect consumers from harassment by telemarketers. The telemarketers no doubt say that calls made during reasonable hours are not a problem. I would like to briefly list specific problems caused by telemarketing calls. I have seen all of these effects personally and I'm sure they're widespread.

1. Answering machine completely filled with long recorded messages left by autodialers, so that no new messages can be received.
2. Repeated, frequent disturbance while working at home during the day or when staying at home sick and trying to rest.
3. There are people who will not answer calls from unfamiliar numbers because they are trying to avoid telemarketers; this has frequently made it difficult to get through when calling from, e.g., a payphone.
4. Needing to unplug the phone to avoid telemarketers. Difficulty getting a hold of people because of phones unplugged.

Telemarketing is an outrageous violation of privacy. These people turn what should be a convenience and an important tool of communication into an instrument of harassment, causing interference in telecommunications as consumers take measures to try to avoid them. I truly hope the FCC will do something to enable us to defend ourselves effectively against telemarketers without having to resort to unplugging our phones or refusing to answer.