



CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN

Dear Neighbor:

Protecting consumers is one of my highest priorities. The enactment of the *Do Not Call Implementation Act* is a major victory for consumers. Now we can relax in our own living rooms. I am also working to pass the *Anti-Spam Act*. My other recent efforts to protect consumers include:

- **Fighting for electricity refunds:** I have consistently pressured the Bush Administration and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to order power generators to pay refunds of the outrageous electric prices charged Californians.
- **Protecting consumer credit and privacy:** I have worked to make it easier for consumers to correct errors in their credit reports and cosponsored the *Identity Theft Prevention Act*.
- **Protecting investors:** I helped craft the *Corporate and Auditing Accountability Act* which increases penalties for executives who defraud shareholders.

Please call me if you are concerned with consumer protection issues, or any of the other issues confronting Congress—or if we can be of help in your dealings with any federal agency.

Sincerely,

BRAD SHERMAN
Your Congressman

Congressman Brad Sherman. are here to help.

Our San Fernando Valley office is able to provide you with assistance in dealing with federal agencies, including the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Small Business Administration programs and with immigration issues, to name just a few. Our Washington office can provide information on pending legislative issues and can arrange tours of government landmarks during your visit to the nation's capital.



Congressman Brad Sherman with his California staff.

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Official Business

M.C.
PRSRT-STD



NOW YOU CAN MAKE TELEMARKETERS STOP CALLING.

Postmaster: Please deliver promptly.

This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.



Congressman Brad Sherman co-sponsored the Do Not Call Implementation Act.

Sign Up for the New Nationwide Do Not Call List

It has happened to everyone. You are in the middle of dinner or watching your favorite TV show when the phone rings. It's not family calling. Nor friends. It's a telemarketer. They want to change your long distance provider or sell you a credit card. And the calls just keep coming.

That's why Congressman Brad Sherman cosponsored the *Do Not Call Implementation Act* which was signed into law earlier this year. Under the new law, consumers may add their names to a Do Not Call List. It's illegal for telemarketers to call those numbers on the list and those found violating this law face fines of \$11,000 per call. If you act in July or August, they must stop calling you by the end of September.

The new law applies to most telemarketers. It doesn't apply to the companies you do business with (including lenders from whom you have sought a loan). You may want to ask a company about its telemarketing policy before deciding to do business with it.

How You Can Stop The Telemarketers

To register your various phone numbers (home, business or cellular) on the National Do Not Call List, contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)—it's free of charge—by doing any of the following:

- Using the phone you wish to register, call the FTC at: **1-888-382-1222**
- Register all your phone numbers directly with the FTC website at: **www.donotcall.gov** or
- Use the link at Congressman Sherman's website at **www.house.gov/sherman** to reach the FTC's sign-up page.

Do not give personal information to anyone who calls you claiming to be compiling information for the Do Not Call List and do not pay anyone to help you sign up. Such offers may be fraudulent.

For more information, or for assistance in signing up for the list, please call Congressman Brad Sherman's San Fernando Valley office at (818) 501-9200.

Congressman Sherman's Efforts to Stop Spam

Spam is unsolicited email advertising. It costs businesses and home users time and money. That's why Congressman Sherman has cosponsored the *Anti-Spam Act*.

Many email service providers have systems designed to protect you from spam. Spam is often sorted into a "bulk email" file or rejected, or you can indicate that you don't want to accept emails from certain senders. However, these protections are thwarted by spammers using phony return addresses, often changing their phony address hourly. This can disguise spam as personal communication from an individual.

The *Anti-Spam Act* will require bulk e-mailers to use a legitimate return address. This will make it easy for email service providers

to identify spam. Then, at your option, spam could be accepted,

rejected, or sorted into a bulk file. You could also list senders you want to accept bulk emails from—perhaps a store whose products interest you. In either case,

the *Anti-Spam Act* would give consumers the power to control spam. That's why Sherman is working hard to pass the *Anti-Spam Act*.



sign up for the "Do Not Call List," act today!