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To: FTC.SERIOUS("tsr@ftc.gov")
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Subject: Telemarketing by inmates in Prison

I am strongly opposed to the use of prison inmates for telemarketing purposes - there is no way they can put in enough safeguards to protect the consumer when prison inmates are making the calls. I had an experience in 1999 with collect calls coming into my home from an inmate in prison all times of the day and night and it took 3 months to get the calls stopped. I filed a complaint with FTC in 1999 (IC 99-05565) requesting some action be taken at that time. I contacted the police, congressional representatives, US West, MCI, FTC and no one could give me assistance until a gentleman from MCI in the DC area traced the call (after I kept telling them they had the capability to do so) and had them stopped!

The FTC must protect the consumer and prohibit state and federal government entities from entering into contracts with Telemarketing companies to use prisoners for this purpose.