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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3305

April 12, 2013

**End the robocall loophole and give voters a choice**  
Cosponsor H.R. 1315, the Robo Calls Off Phones (Robo COP) Act

Dear Colleague:

Do what's right and allow the voters in your district to choose whether they want to receive political robocalls. Every campaign season pre-recorded campaign calls, or robocalls, flood home phone lines and message machines. Some eligible voters receive 20 or more of these recorded phone messages a day. Just as unsolicited phone calls from telemarketers are an unwelcome intrusion for most Americans, these calls are also a nuisance and come at very inconvenient times for many individuals and families. More importantly, these calls offer no interaction with a human being calling on a candidate's behalf, much less the candidate him/herself. It is important for candidates to interact with voters on a personal level and this is lost when these robocalls are made.

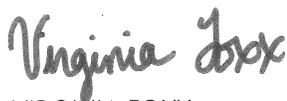
The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) manages the National Do Not Call Registry, which gives consumers a choice about getting telemarketing calls at home. Calls from or on behalf of political organizations, charities and telephone surveyors are still permitted. The American people reject the idea that elected officials exempt themselves from the rules. That is why I have authored H.R. 1315, the Robo Calls Off Phones (Robo COP) Act. This bill would direct the FTC to revise its regulations regarding the National Do Not Call Registry to prohibit prerecorded campaign messages, or robocalls, to telephone numbers placed on the national registry. Unsolicited political calls from live people would continue to be permitted.

The FTC has issued regulations to curb unwanted telemarketing robocalls. As of September 1, 2009, businesses now need an individual's written permission before they can call their phone number with prerecorded telemarketing messages. According to the FTC prerecorded messages from a business to let you know your flight's been cancelled, reminders about an appointment, messages about a delayed school opening, or messages contacting you to collect a debt are permitted. Other exceptions include political calls and calls from certain healthcare providers.

Individuals should have the right to opt out of receiving campaign robocalls just as they are able to do so with unsolicited sales calls. In an age of email and campaign websites and with the existence of a relatively straightforward system that allows individuals to opt out of telemarketing phone calls, it makes sense to allow voters to choose whether or not they wish to be bombarded with incessant campaign robocalls every election cycle.

Please join me in supporting this nonpartisan, common sense legislation that reflects the voters fatigue with the cheapening of the political process. To be a cosponsor of H.R. 1315, the Robo Calls Off Phones (Robo COP) Act, please contact Leslie Goodman in my office at 225-2071 or [Leslie.Goodman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Leslie.Goodman@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



VIRGINIA FOXX  
Member of Congress