



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2/11/04

CONTACT: REP BILL STRAUS
PHONE: 617-722-2080

STRAUS ANNOUNCES OVER 1.3 MILLION
MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR
THE STATE'S DO NOT CALL LIST

Boston – State Representative Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett) announced today that over 1.3 million people have successfully registered for the Massachusetts Do Not Call List since the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCA) first started collecting these names in January 2003. Also, because the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation has been forwarding all the numbers on the Massachusetts Registry to the National Do Not Call List, these consumers will not have to sign up to be on the National list.

This registry prohibits telemarketers from calling residents whose phone numbers are on the list, or will be subject prosecution by the Consumer Affairs office. The penalties for telemarketers who call residents on this list are fines of up to \$5000 per violation.

Rep. Straus, who was the original sponsor of the legislation establishing the “Do Not Call List,” stated that this was one of the most important consumer protection initiatives established in Massachusetts in several years. “Massachusetts citizens finally have the ability to protect their privacy at home from unwarranted intrusions from telemarketers,” continued Straus.

Signing up for the Massachusetts Do Not Call program is easy and free through any of the following methods:

1. Call toll-free (866) 231-CALL (2255)
2. Register online at www.mass.gov/donotcall
3. Mail your name, address and telephone number or print out a registration form at www.Mass.Gov/donotcall and mail it to the following address:
Massachusetts Do Not Call Program
P.O. Box 1348
Boston, MA 02117

The list is published every quarter adding names of people who have signed up since the last list was published. Consumers can expect fewer calls once the new list is published.