



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

ROBERT B. BELL
2309 FINCH COURT
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22911

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
COURTS OF JUSTICE
HEALTH, WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS
RULES

January 10, 2011

Howard Fienberg
1111 16th Street NW, Suite 120
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Fienberg:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter concerning my robocall proposal.

As I'm sure you understand, the primary driver for citizen anger are the deluge of calls that arrive in the days leading up to election day. The per-call cost is so low that as we saw with e-mail spam, it is always in some group's interest to do one more call and no one wants to be the first to quit; however, the aggregate is overwhelming.

I do not object to trying to carve out language as you suggest, but do think it will be harder than you think. A good "push poll" can masquerade quite effectively through the questions it asks, and I fear your exception might swallow the rule.

In any case, it does not currently appear there is much stomach for the bill. I would encourage you to attend the committee hearings to make sure your thoughts are known to the committee members as well.

Thanks again for sharing your thoughts, and best wishes to Mike.

Sincerely,


Rob Bell

I appreciate your letter.