

Dear Mr. Shirely,

I am writing to express my concerns about potential new rules regarding the distribution of telecommunication customers' private account information.

I understand the WUTC is in the process of considering new rules on account privacy. I strongly support rules mandating companies use "opt-in" provisions. It makes good sense (as well as good policy) to require customer approval before private information can be shared with third parties or used for marketing purposes. Furthermore, I am opposed to rules which would provide protection only for certain types of information, while requiring a customer to "opt-out" for other types. That system has proven ineffective and confusing, and many telecommunications customers have had difficulty ensuring that companies register or abide by their "opt-out" requests.

I hope the WUTC will adopt rules providing the most possible protection for customer privacy.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Dickerson
Washington State Representative
36th District
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