

I have been involved in the MLM industry on and off for 15 years. Although I have not achieved the financial freedom that I have been looking for it has proven to be an awesome experience for the most part.

I won't say that every company in the industry is well intentioned or are legitimate opportunities, but your proposed legislation would do nothing but hurt the legitimate companies that offer great products and real business opportunities.

Do you have any idea of the personal growth opportunities that accompany building a solid Network Marketing business? Take a look at the truly successful people in the industry; they are usually well educated caring people. It is almost impossible to build a solid organization without really caring about the people in your business.

The problem isn't with the industry of Network Marketing. It's with the people that manipulate the system. It's no different than a traditional business that has less than honest people running the company. How many people did Enron ruin? Can you monitor every company that operates in a less than honest fashion?

I have made some money in the industry but more than that I have made hundreds of friends. In my opinion it would be a terrible mistake to put these proposed ridiculous requirements on any business. Would you have General Motors, Delphi, Wall Mart and Ford Motor Company operate under the same rules? What makes them any different? They don't offer any more security or income opportunity than the legitimate MLM companies.

I would suggest an alternative to monitoring the scams that are out there. To penalize good companies and good people for the actions of a few would be wrong. If you want to regulate the industry and try and recognize the scams from the legitimate companies you need to form a division of your governmental branch made up of people that have experience in the industry to investigate the various companies.

I believe there are many individuals including myself that can tell you a scam from a legitimate company with one trip to a home office. Sometimes it doesn't even require a visit. If you know what to look for, a scam can be spotted very quickly. There just needs to be a process established to recognize the scams.

Even some of the most well intentioned people start companies that don't realize that they don't have a legal business model. I would like to believe that most of the people that start these companies believe that they are creating legitimate businesses, but we all know this isn't true and many of them are destined for failure before they even begin.

This is no different in traditional business, I think you know the statistics, most businesses fail within the first five years. I created a very successful business more than 10 years ago and sold it a few years later to pursue Network marketing full time. I have two adopted children and owning my own business required so much of my time that I was missing them growing up.

Many people are looking for the freedom that the industry can bring, just like me. This is not a get rich quick industry like many believe. You can be successful only if you can develop leaders and a system that can be duplicated. Your chances of success are about the same as a traditional business as long as you have a legitimate company and a product behind you. The problem is finding the real opportunity. It's no different than finding a good company to work for.

Your proposed legislation would be an attack on one of the basic freedoms our country stands for. Is it your intention to regulate every start up company to protect the good citizens of this country? I have participated in a few MLM companies and was even involved in starting up a Networking company six years ago. We lasted over four years but never had a product that had enough mass appeal.

I've received notification from several companies in this industry about the proposed legislation because I'm a current customer of three MLM companies that I do not promote as a business. I'm just a customer of these companies because I believe that their products are better than what I can buy at the supermarket and I believe in the industry.

I'm also enough of a realist to recognize that the industry is also filled with less than ethical people that need to be regulated. As I mentioned above, rather than penalize the entire industry to stop a few unethical people, form a group of specialized investigators to monitor the industry. I know you already have an organization in place, but are they the experts you need?

If you put together this task force, this would save the government a fortune! How in the world can you expect to uphold these requirements? Will it stop the unethical practices of the scammers or will it just prohibit good companies from doing business? Who are the companies that will try and abide by the law? How will you enforce these new laws? Where will the money come from?

Please reconsider your attempt to regulate free trade and commerce. The problem you are trying to eliminate isn't just limited to the industry of Network marketing, what you are trying to regulate is free enterprise and opportunity. Let's get this right, put the task force together.

Tim Rice