#### Petition to improve proposed anti-spam Bill S-220: An Act respecting commercial electronic messages

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#### Introduction

The Government of Canada is currently considering new anti-spam legislation known as "**Bill S-220**: **An Act respecting commercial electronic messages**." While this effort appears well-intended on the

surface, there are some serious problems with this proposed legislation that violate everyone's **natural right to consent** by unfairly making discriminatory exemptions to various parties, excluding many internet service providers from critical protections, and providing unnecessary grace periods. The exemptions legitimize spam based on who sent it (instead of respecting everyone's natural right to consent), and are inconsistent with the good spirit of Canadian culture. The other points lack varying degrees of fairness, which is an integral aspect of any trustworthy judicial system.

We're raising four objections to the **proposed anti-spam Bill S-220**. In the long run, we envision that the motivation to send spam from Canada will diminish as spammers feel increasingly discouraged (hopefully to the point of shutting down their spamming operations entirely), but the Solutions we included with our Objections must be implemented before this may be possible.

For your convenience we organized (with colour-coding) the details of each *Objection* (red), its *Rationale* (amber), and a reasonable *Solution* (green) in a format that's easy-to-read and understand.



### i. Objection: Exclusion of non-commercial spam

Objection	Rationale	Solution
Title of the Act, and Section 1 The Title of the Act implies, by its emphasis on the word "commercial," that non- commercial spam is excluded, and Section 1 is inconsistent in its reference to this Act as the "Anti-Spam Act."	<ul> <li>By its very nature, the term <i>Anti-Spam</i> doesn't differentiate</li> <li>between commercial and non-commercial contexts; the crux of the <i>Anti-Spam</i> movement is to protect every recipient's <i>natural right to consent</i>.</li> <li>In addition to "commercial," some other types of spam include: <ul> <li>auto-responders that reply to more than one message from a given sender</li> <li>bounces (delivery failures) to forged sender addresses</li> <li>C/R (Challenge/Response) System challenges</li> <li>distribution of viruses and other malicious software</li> <li>incomprehensible (e.g., "aaazzzaaazzz" repeated and/or varied many times)</li> <li>political</li> <li>religious</li> <li>other various types that have not yet been anticipated</li> <li>outright fraud</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Remove the word "commercial" from the Title of the Act. Eliminate the "commercial" context throughout the Act, as appropriate, to ensure consistency with the Title of the Act.



# ii. Objection:Exclusion of many internet service providers

Objection	Rationale	Solution
Section 3, subsection 2, and Section 7, subsection 3, and Section 26, subsections 1, 2, and 3 Unfairly excludes many ISPs ("internet service providers") from the protections provided to TSPs ("telecommunications service providers"), which severely hinders the potential effectiveness of this Bill.	ISPs ("internet service providers") are increasingly connecting their systems to the internet using computer networking technology, such as <i>Ethernet</i> or <i>Fibre Optics</i> , without directly utilizing traditional telecommunications equipment. This absence of telecommunications equipment as a necessary part of their operations excludes ISPs from falling under the definition of TSPs ("telecommunications service providers"). In order for this Bill to be effective, ISPs need the same protections provided to TSPs since both provide similar Electronic Messaging solutions such as eMail.	Create and add a new definition to Section 2 defining "internet service provider" (ISP) that is inclusive of, for the purpose of this Act, "telecommunications service provider" (TSP). Change the phrase "telecommunications service provider" to "internet service provider" to "internet service provider" in: • Section 2, definition of "electronic message" • Section 2, definition of "sender" • Section 3, subsection 2 • Section 7, subsection 3 • The heading immediately preceding Section 26 • Section 26, subsection 1 • Section 26, subsection 2 • Section 26, subsection 3



# iii. Objection:Legitimizing spamming for certain types of senders

<ul> <li>Section 8, subsection 3, paragraphs a, b, c, d, and g</li> <li>Unfairly legitimizes spamming in Canada by providing exemptions for:</li> <li>a. political parties or an association of members of political contestants and candidates</li> <li>c. registered charities</li> <li>d. partnerships, corporations, or associations, or associations, or shareholders genembers, or shareholders</li> <li>g. public opinion polls or surveys</li> <li>where the total parties or an association of members of political parties of political parties of political parties</li> <li>b. political contestants and candidates</li> <li>c. registered charities</li> <li>d. partnerships, corporations, trusts, foundations, or associations whose income is not available for personal benefit by its proprietors, members, or shareholders</li> <li>g. public opinion polls or surveys</li> <li>b. policic opinion polls or surveys</li> <li>b. policic opinion polls or surveys</li> <li>b. policical parties</li> <li>b. political contestants and creates international relations.</li> <li>c. registered charities</li> <li>d. partnerships, corporations, trusts, foundations, or associations whose income is not available for personal benefit by its proprietors, members, or shareholders</li> <li>g. public opinion polls or surveys</li> <li>g. public opinion polls or surveys</li></ul>



### iv. Objection: Seven-day grace period for unsubscribe requests

Objection	Rationale	Solution
Section 10, subsection 2 A seven-day grace period is permitted for processing unsubscribe requests, which is also a violation of section 8, subsection 2.	Although this is an improvement over the typical thirty-day processing period that is often promoted by marketers, it's not a logical requirement because honouring subscription requests, and sending electronic messages to subscribers, are processed immediately by automated systems. Therefore, since requests to unsubscribe are also processed by the same automated systems, this seven-day grace period, which violates section 8, subsection 2, isn't necessary. Additionally, this section of the Bill is a serious concern because it permits senders to delay the final processing of unsubscribe requests until the end of the grace period, effectively using it as a "seven-day license to send spam."	Remove Section 10, subsection 2, or change its wording to eliminate the grace period and require that all pending unsubscribe requests shall be honoured prior to sending every batch of electronic messages (we prefer the latter).



When **proposed anti-spam Bill S-220** comes into force, if all the *reasonable* Solutions we included with our Objections are implemented it will benefit Canada both domestically and internationally, and will be a helpful addition to the arsenal in the war against spam. The new legislation will also be an asset to individuals and organizations when they prosecute spammers who steal their identities to commit crimes. Complete details are available at: <u>http://www.lumbercartel.ca/law/canada/s-220/</u>

We sincerely hope you will **support this petition by signing it** (even if you're not a Canadian citizen, your signature will still be helpful). Please mail all signed petitions to:

**The Lumber Cartel, local 42** Tinder Box #30138 - 8602 Granville Street Vancouver, British Columbia, **Canada** V6P 5A0



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