**Nation’s State Utility Consumer Advocates Praise FTC’s New Do-Not-Call List**

SILVER SPRING, MD, December 18, 2002- The National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) issued the following response to today’s Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announcement of a national do-not-call list:

"The federal government took a much needed step by committing to a national do-not-call list," said NASUCA President and Ohio Consumers’ Counsel Robert S. Tongren. "We hope this will move us toward finally giving consumers what they deserve - freedom from annoying and bothersome telephone calls."

Tongren indicated that NASUCA will be reviewing the rules closely, but that the major components needed for a consumer friendly do-not-call list are included. As NASUCA recommended, the national do-not-call list will supplement – not replace - existing state laws that may offer consumers greater protection against telemarketers.

NASUCA encourages the FTC to work with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which has also proposed a do-not-call list, to achieve a single, comprehensive list covering telemarketing calls by all businesses under each agency’s jurisdiction.