From: Christopher Hilgers

To: NASAA Comments; Theresa Leets; bill.beatty@dfi.wa.gov; Erin Houston

Cc: Jeff Elgin

Subject: [EXTERNAL]NASAA Model Franchise Broker Act Comments

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2025 1:05:31 AM

To whom it may concern,

I have been a Franchise Consultant for 14 years. As a Franchise Consultant, I am a lead source to franchise companies much like other lead sources such as LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, personal referrals and others.

We should not be covered in this definition of franchise sellers because that's not what we do. The confusing language in this regulation, designed to label as a broker anyone who is "indirectly" involved in the franchise sales process needs to be changed or the unintended consequences will be significant.

The definition of "franchise broker" in the Act is far too broad and would capture individuals who simply make referrals or provide information, not those actually engaged in franchise sales. This would require countless business professionals to register unnecessarily.

As for people who are actually involved in the franchise sales process, this new regulation is unnecessary, burdensome, costly and duplicates rules and regulations already in place.

The proposed registration requirements would create an overwhelming administrative burden for small operators like myself. The compliance costs alone could force many of us out of business, ultimately reducing the resources available to help prospective franchisees navigate their options.

Advocating for individual states to create their own rules and fees related to this disclosure process unnecessarily creates confusion and hardship from a compliance standpoint. If we need more regulation of franchise sales brokers, it should be done by the FTC on a national basis.

The registration requirements are impractical for an industry where professionals often work with multiple brands across multiple states. The compliance costs and administrative burden would be prohibitive for many legitimate operators.

Rather than broad registration requirements, the industry would be better served by enforcement of existing laws against fraud and misrepresentation, along with education initiatives for prospective franchisees.

I would ask that you reconsider the direction that you are taking as I don't believe that it addresses what you are attempting to accomplish.

Respectfully

Chris

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