

# Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection: Consumer protection hotline subjected to 'spoofing'

Posted on Monday, Jul 24, 2017

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

**Contact:** Bill Cosh, Communications Director, [608-224-5020](tel:608-224-5020)

MADISON - It appears the Wisconsin Consumer Protection Hotline phone number is being "spoofed."

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has received a number of reports from consumers stating they received a call from the Consumer Protection Hotline today as our 800 number appeared on their caller ID.

The Bureau of Consumer Protection does not make phone calls to consumers using the 800 number. It is there for consumers and businesses to contact the Bureau to report a problem, file a complaint, or ask questions about consumer laws.

If we do call a consumer, the number that appears on a caller ID is our local phone number with a 608 area code. We will not call you "out of the blue" or randomly. We will only call consumers if you left a message for a return call or if you filed a complaint with us. We also identify ourselves and tell you why we are calling.

One consumer reported the message left by the caller was about the WI Do Not Call list. Others indicated there was no message, only that the 800 number appeared on their caller ID. Wisconsin consumers are not the only ones receiving these "spoofed" calls, as reports have come in from people in seven other states at this

point.

Should you receive this call, don't answer or engage the caller – just hang up.

For more information or to file a complaint, visit the Consumer Protection Bureau at <http://datcp.wisconsin.gov>, send an email to [datcphotline@wisconsin.gov](mailto:datcphotline@wisconsin.gov), or call [1-800-422-7128](tel:1-800-422-7128).