

## **NCPW 2003 – Sample Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor:

Today, the Internet helps make our lives richer and more convenient, in ways our ancestors could not have imagined. Our access to information and entertainment; credit and financial services; products from every corner of the world – even to our work – is greater than ever. Thanks to the Internet, we can order books, clothes, appliances and gifts online; book a hotel room across the ocean; check our credit card and bank balances 24 hours a day; or access our offices from an airport thousands of miles away.

And yet, the Internet also provides a gateway to our personal information; our homes, families and worksites; our security and safety. Viruses, hackers and worms have become the stuff of headlines, with results that can range from mere headaches to complete havoc.

The good news is that securing our computers is largely a matter of routine maintenance. Using strong passwords, installing firewalls, and regularly running updated virus software can go a long way toward protecting our computers, our information, and our peace of mind from computer creeps who try to slow down a network operation, or worse yet, steal personal information to commit a crime.

A group of federal, state and local organizations and national advocacy groups has joined forces this month for the fifth annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), Feb. 2 through 8, 2003. This year's theme, "Information Security: Putting the Pieces Together," focuses on practical steps consumers and businesses can take to manage their personal and sensitive information wisely and help minimize its misuse.

Among the members of the group are the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators (NACAA), the National Consumers League (NCL), AARP, the Better Business Bureau (BBB), the Consumer Federation of America (CFA), the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), and the Federal Consumer Information Center (FCIC).

This year's NCPW offers a great opportunity for everyone to learn more about managing personal and sensitive information, minimizing its misuse, and creating a culture of information security. For more information, visit the NCPW website at [www.consumer.gov/ncpw](http://www.consumer.gov/ncpw). Let's all take advantage of the many education materials now being distributed during the campaign.

Sincerely,  
[Insert name and organization]