

Complaint by La Pine business sparks statewide ban of Canadian "yellow pages" company

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

LA PINE, Ore. -- A Canadian internet yellow pages company is now prohibited from offering its allegedly deceptive services to Oregon businesses, thanks to a complaint by a La Pine small business owner, the State's Attorney General announced today.

"I am committed to protecting Oregon small businesses from fraud," said Attorney General Kroger. "When small businesses are victimized, we will respond aggressively."

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) took action against UnitedStatesBusinessPages.com in response to a complaint from a La Pine small business owner. The name of the small business was not disclosed.

The business owner said UnitedStatesBusinessPages.com called her on the pretext of updating its records. She answered "yes" to a series of questions about the address, phone and fax numbers of the business. UnitedStatesBusinessPages.com later used a recording of her saying "yes" to claim she had agreed to purchase a \$500 online advertisement. The company then sent her a bill.

Instead of paying the bill, the business owner filed a complaint with the Oregon DOJ.

Some companies based in Canada appear to be American because they use a mail drop in the lower 48. The DOJ has resolved several cases of alleged cross-border fraud.

Senior Assistant Attorney General Thomas Elden handled the case for the DOJ.

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