

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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January 22, 2013

Ellen Weintraub, Chair  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Chair Weintraub,

On November 3, 2011, the Committee on House Administration's Subcommittee on Elections held an oversight hearing where you and the other FEC commissioners appeared as witnesses. One of the major topics at that hearing was the status of the FEC's enforcement manual. At the request of the Committee, FEC staff worked with Committee staff following the hearing and agreed on a process to make most of that manual, and other previously-secret FEC documents, public. I commend the FEC for this step toward transparency, which is a vital check on the government's power in any enforcement process and especially important for an agency whose enforcement actions can limit criticism of the government and engagement in the political process.

In a May 23, 2012, press release announcing the release of the documents discussed at the hearing, the FEC said, "The Office of General Counsel is currently preparing a revised Enforcement Manual, which is scheduled to be completed and made available to the public early next year." Given the age of the existing enforcement manual, and the fact that you said at the hearing it "is not actually in its current form being actively used," updating the manual is an important next step in modernizing and improving the FEC's enforcement process.

Please respond to this letter no later than February 5, 2013, to provide the Committee with the current status and expected completion date of the revised manual. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Committee at 202-225-8281. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Candice S. Miller  
Chairman

cc: Commissioner Don McGahn, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Cynthia Bauerly  
Commissioner Caroline Hunter  
Commissioner Matthew Petersen  
Commissioner Steven Walther  
Anthony Herman, General Counsel