



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB
ON THE MOTION TO OPEN A RULEMAKING IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
AND TESTIMONY ON THE *MCCUTCHEON V. FEC* ANPRM**

On February 11, 2015, the Commission heard in-person testimony from Americans of all walks of life, after more than 32,000 submitted written comments, most of them urging the Commission to do something to increase disclosure of the flood of money surging through our elections. That day, I moved that the Commission open a rulemaking in response to those comments.¹ My fellow commissioners asked that I table that motion to provide additional time to carefully consider the deluge of comments. I did, and today, three months later, I revived the motion.

Public concern about spending on our elections continues to rise. Earlier this week in *The Washington Post*, Dan Balz wrote: “Even those who raise and spend the money for campaigns say it is too much, that it is obscene and distorting and possibly corrupting. Without doubt, it is contributing to the cynicism with which many Americans view the political process.”² With constant reminders that our politics are dominated by billionaire donors and secret spending, it should be no surprise that so many are clamoring for stronger rules and an agency committed to enforcing them.

This problem is real, and it will not fade away. When the Commission asks whether to open a rulemaking, and the public answers our question with tens of thousands of comments – the overwhelming majority of which demand change – we cannot ignore that call to act. That is why I attempted to move the Commission forward today, and why I will continue to press for the action the public demands.

5/21/15
Date

Ellen L. Weintraub
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Commissioner

¹ See Statement of Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub on the February 11, 2015, *McCutcheon* ANPRM Hearing, Feb. 11, 2015, available at

http://www.fec.gov/members/weintraub/statements/Weintraub_McCutcheon_ANPRM_Statement_2.11.15.pdf.

² Dan Balz, *A 2016 theme emerges: Money, money, money, money, money*, THE WASHINGTON POST, May 19, 2015, available at http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/money-money-money-money-money-money-money-money/2015/05/19/6d69633e-fe3e-11e4-833c-a2de05b6b2a4_story.html (last accessed May 21, 2015).