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ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE

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June 2005

Mr. Brad C. Deutsch
Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

RE: Comments to Proposed Rulemaking on Internet Communications

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

Alliance for Justice welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Internet Communications ("NPRM") issued on April 4, 2005.[1] We are pleased that the Federal Election Commission ("Commission") has carefully considered its response to the court's interpretation of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act ("BCRA") in *Shays v. Federal Election Commission*.[2] We also appreciate that this NPRM recognizes the extraordinary tensions between the principles of free speech, the unique characteristics of the Internet, and federal regulation of this medium.

Alliance for Justice is a national association of environmental, civil rights, mental health, women's, children's, and consumer advocacy organizations. Our organizations support legislative and regulatory measures that promote political participation, judicial independence, and greater access to the policy processes. While most of Alliance for Justice's members are charitable organizations, a significant number of them also work with or are affiliated with social welfare and advocacy organizations that engage in political activity.

The Internet differs fundamentally from traditional modes of mass media and Alliance for Justice believes that the proposed regulations require careful and exacting deliberation of the impact they will have on political speech and civic engagement. We do not believe that the Federal Election

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[1] 70 Fed. Reg. 16967 (April 4, 2005).
[2] 337 F. Supp. 2d 28 (D.D.C., 2004).

Campaign Act ("FECA")[3] requires broad regulation of political activity – particularly by individuals or volunteers – on the Internet. We recognize, however, that the decision in *Shays* obligates the Commission to move forward with the current NPRM and include Internet communications within FECA's regulatory scheme.[4]

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Our comments on the specific questions raised in the NPRM are driven by the following principles.[5]

1. Regulation of political speech requires a compelling government interest.

As the Supreme Court has consistently held, government regulation of speech in the political context is constitutionally permissible only when it addresses speech or activities that corrupt the political system or create an appearance of corruption.[6] Absent evidence of actual corruption, or the appearance of corruption, political speech delivered by any means is constitutionally protected. As we will discuss, the Internet's near-infinite capacity, diversity, and low cost of publication and access inoculate Internet communications from having a corruptive influence on the political system or elected officials.

2. Where the government can demonstrate corruption, any regulation of political speech must be narrowly tailored.

Regulation of speech must be narrowly tailored to avoid impacting speech that does not corrupt the political process. Regulatory proposals that are overbroad, no matter how slight, are unconstitutional as a matter of law. In this instance, overbreadth would have a deleterious impact on public policy because it would hamper the broad potential of the Internet. There are a limited number of ways that the courts have approved regulation of non-Internet communications. Regulation of Internet speech should not go beyond these well-defined areas.

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[3] The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, 86 Stat. 11, as amended, 2 U. S. C. §431 *et seq*. We refer to FECA in these comments as amended by the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, 116 Stat. 81 (2002).

[4] *Shays* at 130.

[5] These principles are consistent with previous comments by Alliance for Justice to the Commission and the Internal Revenue Service. *See* Alliance for Justice Comments on Federal Election Commission Notice of Inquiry 1999-24: Use of the Internet for Campaign Activity (January 4, 2000); Alliance for Justice Comments on IRS Announcement 2000-84: Request for Comments Regarding the Need for Guidance Clarifying Application of the Internal Revenue Code to Use of the Internet by Exempt Organizations (February 13, 2001); and Alliance for Justice Comments on Federal Election Commission Notice of Inquiry 2001-14: Use of the Internet for Campaign Activity (December 3, 2001).

[6] *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1 (1976); *Federal Election Commission v. Massachusetts Citizens for Life, Inc.*, 479 U.S. 238 (1986) ("*MCFL*").

3. Any regulation of the Internet should account for its continuing evolution.

The Internet is an endlessly evolving means of mass communication. It is impossible to predict what new tools will be invented or how its capabilities will be used. The Commission should not attempt to regulate the path of the Internet's use for political speech, but instead should offer broad principles that can be generally applied to the medium. The technologies and applications used today will likely be relics tomorrow, and any attempt to regulate them may prove to be futile.

Although the Internet as we know it today has only been in existence for public use since the mid-1990s, its use has grown immensely. Political web logs, or "blogs" are nothing new to the Internet but their proliferation and readership has increased in recent years. New technology such as "podcasting" is the latest technological use to be adopted by political commentators, parties, and candidates.[7] Undoubtedly, additional technological developments and more creative uses of the technology will emerge in the coming years. As high speed data transmission and wireless technology becomes more available, Internet communications will become even more accessible, diverse, and cost-effective. Broadly stated guidelines rather than context-specific rules are more likely to provide useful guidance in the face of these new and unpredictable developments.

II. MINIMAL REGULATION OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY ON THE INTERNET SUPPORTS THE GOALS OF FECA AND THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE SPEECH

The issue at the heart of this NPRM is what, if any, Internet activity should be subject to regulation under FECA. First Amendment principles dictate that the government may only regulate political speech or activity that is or has the appearance of a corruptive influence, and these regulations must be narrowly tailored to reach only that corruptive speech or activity – all other political activity is protected speech.[8]

Internet communications do not generally exhibit a corruptive influence on the political system. In fact, because of its low cost, easy publication, and open marketplace quality, the Internet has the opposite effect: the Internet provides a forum to combat corruptive speech with corrective speech issued by more individuals.

The Internet has democratized the mass distribution of information, especially in the political context. For example, the emergence of blogs had a major impact on the 2004

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[7] Podcasting is a new form of audio communication distributed through the Internet. Listeners subscribe to the content feed with special software that downloads new programming as soon it is made available. The format is in audio .mp3 format, which is playable on computers and portable audio players. Recorded programming on a variety of topics, including politics and elections, increased dramatically in 2005. Recent podcasts launched by former Senator John Edwards (http://ga3.org/podcast/podcasting101.html) and the Republican National Committee (http://www.gop.com/podcasting.html) suggest that the medium is likely to be used by candidates, parties, and political committees, as well as independent political speakers, in the 2006 elections and beyond.

[8] *See MCFL*, *supra* n.6.

elections, fueling a resurgence in political participation not seen in over three decades.[9] These blogs allowed more Americans – mostly individuals not affiliated or coordinated with candidates, parties, or political committees – to experience more politically diverse viewpoints than ever before. Because of the effectiveness of this low-cost communication tool, the Commission should *encourage*, rather than discourage, Internet communications by organizations and individuals. An open and minimally regulated Internet furthers First Amendment goals by allowing more speech, be it independent or partisan, to reach the general public. FECA's goals are also maintained by the curative, rather than corruptive, influence of Internet communications on the political system.

Congress granted the Commission sufficient authority and flexibility to leave the vast majority of Internet activity unregulated, maximizing its capacity for open political debate and participation. FECA's legislative history suggests that Congress intended the law to control the influence of money on political process.[10] The Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized FECA's rationale as a legitimate and narrowly tailored regulation of speech designed to limit the influence of aggregated corporate wealth on candidates and the political process.[11] While it may be argued that Congress has the authority to expand regulation in campaign finance beyond the boundaries of *Buckley v. Valeo,*[12] Congress has not done so in a manner that suggests a need for broad Internet regulation. In fact, recently proposed legislation suggests quite the opposite.[13]

Alliance for Justice believes that the current restrictions applied to print and broadcast media should not be automatically applied to the Internet. The print and broadcast media rules are, as a part of the broader FECA regulations, legitimately designed to limit the corruptive

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[9] The increased use of Internet communications for political purposes during the 2004 election is well-documented. *See, Under the Radar & Over the Top: Online Political Videos in the 2004 Election*, George Washington University Institute for Politics, Democracy & the Internet (October 2004). This increase of Internet activity was certainly a major factor in the voter registration and get-out-the-vote successes that elevated voter turnout to its highest since 1968. *President Bush, Mobilization Drives Propel Turnout to Post-1968 High*, Committee for the Study of the American Electorate (November 4, 2004).

[10] 117 Cong. Rec. 43381-89. The caps on spending and contributions in FECA prevent the disproportionate influence of wealth on the political process. By limiting the audience for express advocacy communications, FECA prevents use of membership organizations and other corporations as conduits for large, possibly corruptive, contributions. Similarly, the prohibition on coordination of express advocacy for independent expenditures avoids use of nonprofit organizations as conduits for campaigns. *The focus of* campaign finance *regulation is on the money, not the activity.*

[11] "[T]he need to restrict the influence of political war chests funneled through the corporate form," *Federal Election Commission v. National Conservation PAC*, 470 U.S. 480 (1985), to "eliminate the effect of aggregated wealth of federal elections," *Pipefitters Local Union No. 562 v. United States*, 407 U.S. 385 (1972), to "curb the influence of those who exercise control over large aggregations of capital," *United States v Automobile Workers* 352 U.S. 567 (1957), and to regulate the "substantial aggregations of wealth amassed by the special advantages which go with the corporate form of organization" *Federal Election Commission v. National Right to Work Committee*, 459 U.S. 196 (1982).

[12] 424 U.S. 1 (1976.); *See also McConnell v. Federal Election Commission*, 540 U.S. 93 (2003).

[13] S. 678, 109th Cong. (2005); H.R.1605, 109th Cong. (2005) (amends FECA to exclude communications over the Internet from the definition of public communication). Alliance for Justice agrees with Commissioner Weintraub that the current rulemaking should be closed down should these bills become law. *Statement of Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub on the NPRM on Certain Internet Communications* (March 24, 2005) at 2-3.

influence of money on the political system.[14] Newspapers, magazines, TV, and radio all have limited space availability and are notoriously expensive. The Internet is just the reverse: space is unlimited and the cost of access and publication is cheap. Rather than limiting the number of players, the Internet levels the communications playing field and, for this reason, should not share the same restrictions placed on other media forms.

III. SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Alliance for Justice generally supports the Commission's "hands-off" approach to Internet communications unless they clearly fall within the reach of FECA. To that end, Alliance for Justice respectfully submits the following specific comments to the proposals raised in the Commission's NPRM.

A. Public Communication – Proposed 11 CFR 100.26

The Commission's proposal to regulate only paid advertisements on third-party websites is consistent with the principles outlined above. While not a perfect solution, this approach reflects Alliance for Justice's philosophy that it is preferable to regulate less activity rather than to potentially chill permissible non-corrupting political speech.

Paid Advertisements

The Commission asks whether the proposed regulation is generally consistent with current regulations on advertising in other media.[15] Alliance for Justice believes it is. The distinction between traditional media and the Internet is one of cost. There is virtually no opportunity for individuals to gain free access to broadcast communications, however there are a multitude of free services on the Internet that give any person a forum to communicate. This is an area that the Commission must leave untouched. To act otherwise would penalize the Internet for being a cheap form of communication. As discussed above, the low cost of Internet communications is actually a factor that suggests they are less likely to have a corrupting influence on the system. Low- or no-cost political communications on the Internet, whether on a personal website, a free blog, a personally produced podcast, or some other Internet format are comparable to the classic soapbox speeches in a town square. Paid Internet advertisements are distinctly different, because there is an exchange for something of value. Because of this, FECA may regulate the transaction consistent with the Commission's other regulations. Alliance for Justice supports the idea that cost-free public speech on the Internet would not (and should not) fall under the proposed definition of "general public advertising," and would therefore not be regulable "public communications" under FECA.[16]

It is critically important for the Commission to clearly define what is included in the term "paid advertising." If the Commission does not create a bright line rule in this area, it runs the

[14] NPRM at 16970.
[15] NPRM at 16970.
[16] NPRM at 16971.

risk of creating confusion – confusion that could potentially chill the speech of independent bloggers and other Internet users. To avoid this result, the Commission should carefully tailor payment in the context of proposed 11 CFR 100.26 to include monetary payment as well as in-kind payment for the advertisement.[17]

The Commission asks whether it should explicitly state that bloggers are not included in the definition of "public communication."[18] Alliance for Justice strongly urges the Commission to avoid any reference to "blogs" or "bloggers" in the rules. Codifying these terms in the regulations would both overlook the history of this activity and fail to include the new Internet technologies and formats that will be created in the future.[19] The Commission has not historically included references to specific popular communications and considering the constantly changing face of the Internet it should not do so now.[20]

Scope of Coverage

It should be underscored that Alliance for Justice only supports regulation of *paid* advertisements and no other form of expression. We strongly oppose any regulation that reaches uncoordinated individual activity, and we applaud the FEC for not considering such regulation in this NPRM.

The Commission asks a series of questions to clarify what aspects of the Internet should be covered within the definition of public communication. Alliance for Justice believes that only the source of money, not the nature of an activity, should subject the communication to regulation.[21] The question of what Internet aspects should be included is therefore moot if the only activity addressed is paid third-party advertisements. The limited nature of this definition is protective enough to allow for a broad coverage of all forms of Internet communication. This broad coverage is, importantly, a bright line standard that will be easier for Internet users to understand and, therefore, to follow.

The Commission also asks whether it should exclude from the definition communications from corporations and labor unions to their restricted classes.[22] Although we have not found an example of such a communication, Alliance for Justice supports maintaining the exception for

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[17] Such a definition should include advertisement trades between two parties only if the parties ordinarily receive payment for other advertisements. If the parties do not, an advertisement trade should not be considered paid advertising. NPRM at 16971.

[18] NPRM at 16971.

[19] Internet diaries, the precursors of blogs, date back to the early 1980s; however, they did not reach mainstream use until the 1990s. The term "blog" was first coined in 1999. *See* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog#History. The word "blog" or the technology itself may be replaced in the next several years as Internet technology trends away from the classic browser interface to a different form of access, such as RSS readers.

[20] For instance, "zines" were once a popular form of non-commercial, often political, print media in the early 1990s, but have since seen their popularity ebb. *See* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zines. Just as zines were likely understood to be covered by print media regulations under FECA, so too will blogs be understood to be part of Internet regulations without specific reference to a term that may be antiquated in the not-too-distant future.

[21] This belief is consistent with the goals of FECA and the constitutional precedence of campaign finance regulation established by the Supreme Court decisions discussed earlier in these comments.

[22] NPRM at 16971.

restricted class communications in this context due to First Amendment implications. Extending that exception would maintain consistency with rules previously promulgated by the Commission, as well as with the Congressional intent underlying FECA.[23]

B. Disclaimers - 11 CFR 110.11

The Commission inquires about changes to current disclaimer regulations, specifically focusing on certain email communications and other Internet communications paid by candidates.[24] Alliance for Justice generally supports the Commission's proposal and offers some additional recommendations.

We agree with the general principle that the Commission should balance the benefits of disclosure with the burdens of compliance.[25] We also agree that "the identity of the sponsor of an Internet communication is often already apparent from the face of the communication," making the need for full disclosure statements largely unnecessary.[26] As a result, it is appropriate to limit the scope of disclosure requirements in the context of Internet communications.

Commercial Emails

The Commission proposes to change the current disclaimer requirement on email communications from a focus on the number of communications sent to a focus on a threshold dollar cost of the communication.[27] Alliance for Justice agrees with this approach. Such a change will conform the email regulation to other dollar thresholds in FECA.[28] This may be characterized by some as an unnecessary loosening of regulation in the email context; however, a reasonable threshold dollar figure, combined with a precise definition of "unsolicited," will capture those actors that would otherwise disclose their links to political committees and candidates in other mediums. Alliance for Justice does not support the complete deregulation of all email from the disclosure regulation because large expenditures on email should be subject to disclosure requirements consistent with other forms of communication.[29]

Banner Ads and Disclosure Exceptions – 11 CFR 110.11(f)

Banner advertisements are currently the dominant form of advertising on the Internet; however, the size of banner ads and their placement on most websites would make it difficult to comply with disclosure regulations. Most of these ads are only a few square inches and often

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[23] *See* 2 USC 431(9)(B)(iii); 2 USC 441(b)(2)(A); 11 CFR 100.134(a); and 11 CFR 114.3(c)(3).
[24] NPRM at 16972-3.
[25] NPRM at 16972.
[26] *Id.*
[27] *Id.*
[28] No other areas of the law hinge on the number of people reached, with the exception of the public distribution element in electioneering communications. 11 CFR 100.29. We agree with the Commission that FECA is focused on expenditures and disbursements rather than on the number of contacts; therefore, this rule change is appropriate. NPRM at 20.
[29] NPRM at 16972.

contain just enough text or animation to capture the reader's attention, prompting them to click through to the advertiser's webpage.[30] The Commission has previously ruled that some forms of communication make inclusion of a disclaimer significantly impracticable and have exempted them from disclosure requirements.[31] Alliance for Justice suggests that banner advertisements should also be exempted because it would be just as impracticable to read a disclaimer on a banner ad as it is on a similarly sized pin or button. Such an exception also recognizes the fact that the linking page itself will clearly identify the communicating entity. In the alternative, the Commission could make clear that banner advertisements themselves are exempt, but that the hyperlinked pages must carry the required disclaimer.

Disclosures on Blogs

The current Internet rulemaking received a great deal of negative attention because of the notion that the Commission would regulate and demand disclosure on blogs where such action is not warranted. Given the limited nature of the proposed regulations, the Commission appears to agree that little regulation is required[32] and Alliance for Justice agrees with this position. Alliance for Justice also agrees with the Commission that any payments from a candidate, campaign, or political committee to an Internet actor are already captured and disclosed in required disbursement reports publicly filed with the Commission.[33]

C. Coordinated Communications

Since Alliance for Justice will likely comment on the Commission's upcoming coordinated communications rulemaking, we will limit our comments here. The *Shays* ruling that overturned certain aspects of the coordinated communication regulations directs the Commission to change the content prong of the rule to include Internet communications as a possible vehicle for coordination between an actor and a federal candidate, party, or campaign. The court did not suggest the degree to which Internet communications must be regulated, only that the Commission erred in excluding them completely from the coordination regulations.[34] The current NPRM proposes to change the definition of public communication to include Internet communications,[35] which we feel satisfies the court's directive in *Shays*.

The Commission asks in the NPRM whether hyperlinks to a candidate website should constitute dissemination or distribution of campaign materials for purposes of the coordination rule.[36] Alliance for Justice strongly favors a complete and explicit exception for hyperlinks. We agree that the proposed definition of public communication excludes most personal or organizational websites, and accordingly their hyperlinks, from regulation.[37] However, for

[30] *See, e.g.,* the sidebar advertisements at BlueOregon.com, Wonkette.com, Powerline.com, and MichelleMalkin.com.
[31] Exempted forms of communication include buttons, pins, bumper stickers, and skywriting. 11 CFR 110.11(f).
[32] NPRM at 16973.
[33] *Id.*
[34] *Supra* n.2.
[35] NPRM at 16973.
[36] *Id.*
[37] *Id.*

purposes of clarity to the regulated community and consistency within the law we support an amendment to 11 CFR 109.21(c)(2) to explicitly exempt hyperlinks to candidate websites from the definitions of dissemination, distribution, or republication. This general exception is necessary because there is a distinction between permissibly educating the reader that political information is available and the potentially regulable payment for dissemination of that information to the public.

D. Exception for News Story and Commentary – 11 CFR 100.73 and 100.132

The Commission asks whether the current exception for news and commentary should also apply to Internet communications.[38] Alliance for Justice believes that this exception should be broadly applied to all Internet communications, and that the proposed regulation should include a thoroughly updated definition of the news and commentary exception for *all* media outlets. To encourage better compliance, the Commission should give all regulated actors better guidance as to the meaning of "news, opinion or commentary."

While these comments have illustrated the differences between Internet-based communications and print or broadcast media, their similarities are more important when considering the news exception. Internet forms of communication have the capacity to reach as large, perhaps even a larger, audience than traditional news outlets. Like the print and broadcast audience, Internet users may select among various "channels" or "stations" by selecting among millions of websites, blogs, and newsgroups, or by subscribing to any number of e-mail alert lists, listservs, or podcasts. Also like traditional news outlets, the Internet audience has a variety of alternative views to select from. In fact, while control of broadcast and print media has narrowed, the Internet offers such a diverse array of voices and choices that almost any conceivable view can find a forum – and those that cannot often create a Internet forum of their own.

FECA expressly permits editorial opinion and commentary to fall under the news exception and seems to preclude any limit on the exception based on the bias of the communication.[39] Congress clearly expressed its intent that there were future forms of media that should be included within the safe harbor of the exception, and the Commission has recognized this by expanding it as technology advances.[40] Alliance for Justice believes that the underlying rationale of the news exception is that a diversity of voices creates a useful, multi-partisan, and educational forum when viewed as a whole. The unique nature and wide availability of publications on the Internet justifies its broad inclusion within this exception, distinguishing Internet publications from traditional definitions of media enterprises set out in past Advisory Opinions.[41]

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[38] NPRM at 16974-5. These comments will refer to this as the "news exception."
[39] 2 USC 431(9)(b)(i).
[40] *Explanation & Justification for Final Rule on Candidate Debates and News Stories*, 61 Fed. Reg. 18049, 18050 (1996) (expanding the reach of the news exception to cable outlets).
[41] *See* AOs 2004-7; 2003-34; 2000-13; 1996-48; 1996-41; 1996-16; 1992-26; 1988-22; 1987-08; 1982-44; 1982-58; 1980-90; 1980-109; and 1978-76.

Alliance for Justice does not suggest a standardless global exception to all Internet communications, but rather encourages the Commission to consider the broadest possible application of the news and commentary exception to the Internet. To that end, the exception should be consistent with current corporate prohibitions on public communications of express advocacy. The exception should be available to all Internet media outlets, including both those that exist solely online and those that have an offline component. Also, bloggers or other types of Internet actors should be not be specifically categorized as commentary or news, *per se,* because of the futility of this definition as described earlier.[42] Finally, the news and commentary exception should not extend to any Internet communications paid for by a candidate or party.[43]

E. Uncompensated Individual Activity – Proposed 11 CFR 117.1

Alliance for Justice supports the proposed uncompensated individual activity rule at 11 CFR 117.1 because it is consistent with current rules. We supported the Commission's earlier rulemakings stating that the low cost of Internet communications puts the activities of individual volunteers within the existing volunteer exception.[44] This exception for volunteers should include both websites created by individuals that support or oppose candidates and express advocacy communications on individual websites, whether or not these activities are coordinated with or paid for by candidates and campaigns.[45]

F. Use of Corporate and Labor Facilities

Alliance for Justice generally agrees with the Commission's proposal regarding the use of corporate and labor facilities.[46] Extension of the current regulations to Internet services codifies the interpretation and treatment many practitioners have already suggested to their clients. We believe the existing rule, with its bright line definition of "occasional, isolated, or incidental"[47] as one hour per week or four hours per month, is appropriate and easy to understand.

The Commission asks whether it should promulgate additional rules related to the existing prohibition of coercion by corporation and labor organizations.[48] Alliance for Justice believes that the hypothetical problem of a corporation or labor union coercing employees to use organizational equipment for Internet advocacy does not warrant an additional rule at this time. Such coercion, or even the appearance of such coercion, has not been established and even if it were established existing regulatory and statutory authority is sufficient to deter the activity.

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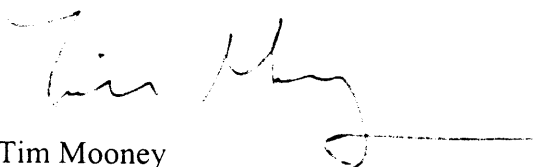
[42] NPRM at 16975. Furthermore, Alliance for Justice does not believe that the new regulations should specifically mention blogs or otherwise differentiate them from other forms of Internet communications. *Supra* n.20.
[43] NPRM at 16975. Depending on the situation, such communications should either be regulated as coordinated with the candidate or party, or considered controlled by the party or candidate and therefore the communication cannot benefit from the media exception pursuant to 2 USC 431(9)(B)(i).
[44] 11 CFR 100.74.
[45] NPRM at 16976. Alliance for Justice also believes that Advisory Opinion 1998-22, which held that a candidate website created by an individual was something of value under FECA, is inconsistent with both the statute and Advisory Opinion 1999-17, and should be withdrawn or revised as suggested in the NPRM.
[46] NPRM at 16976.
[47] 11 CFR 114.9(a)(1)(iii) & (b)(1)(iii).
[48] NPRM at 16977.

III. CONCLUSION

The purposes of FECA and the principles of free speech are best served by allowing the Internet to continue its rapid development as a publicly available, widely accessible, and low-cost medium for communication. Rationales underlying the regulation of limited, high cost forms of communication, such as print and broadcast media, are inapplicable for Internet communications. The Internet is a wholly new and ever-evolving mechanism for communication that continues to change our society in fundamental ways. Congress has recognized the Internet's continuing potential for educational, financial, and political uses and has refrained from excessive regulation in any area of law. Because the Internet offers an opportunity for the American people to engage in the political process, Alliance for Justice urges the Commission to encourage more political speech on the Internet by leaving it largely unregulated.

Sincerely,



Tim Mooney
Senior Counsel