



May 30, 2005

2005 JUN -6 A 11:21  
FEDERAL ELECTIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

Mr. Brad C. Dutch  
Assistant General Council  
Federal Elections Commission  
999 E. Street NW,  
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Mr. Dutch:

Regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Internet Communications

We are contacting you because we want to preserve our democratic right to freedom of speech on the Internet. We are the Media Reform Legislative group which is a sub committee of Bluewave NJ, a grassroots organization representing approximately 400 members. We appreciate this opportunity to submit our comments.

We believe that the Internet is the soapbox of our time, a new democratizing force that should be nurtured and protected. The ease of internet use assists in informing citizens and allowing them to express their views in a way not available before. Because of increased consolidation of mainstream media, we particularly want to protect this new forum where news, information, and multiple opinions can be disseminated, expressed, and debated.

While we are in favor of campaign finance reform we are also concerned about the unintended muzzling of this new mode of free speech.

Following are our comments on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Internet Communications as it appeared in the FEC's "Record" of May 2005:

**DEFINITION OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

Large scale advertising for campaigns that are regulated off the internet should be regulated on the internet as well.





### **BLOGGERS PAID BY CANDIDATES**

We agree that the candidates must make publicly available any fees paid to bloggers. However, while we would support a public policy requiring bloggers to disclose on their blogs payments from political committees for purposes other than financing political advertising (e.g., payments for "political consulting"), current federal statutory law does not seem to require such disclosure, although we would encourage such disclosure by each individual blogger in the spirit of ethical journalism.

### **COORDINATED COMMUNICATIONS**

Yes, we agree that the exemption should be kept for ads placed on the internet for free. And we agree that the exemption should be kept for all distribution of campaign materials on the internet.

### **MEDIA EXEMPTION**

We agree that any media exemptions that apply outside the internet would apply on the internet as well. And that the definition of "Media Entity" should be applied on a case by case basis as it is outside the Internet. Individuals working on their own should be exempt. Corporations, unions, parties, candidates or individuals hiring people, or providing equipment specifically for the purpose of promoting a candidate would have to report this as an in kind contribution to the candidate. This would exclude the equipment they have in place to conduct their regular business that an employee might use on their own time to communicate their personal views.

### **DEFINITION OF "CONTRIBUTION" AND "EXPENDITURE"**

We agree that individuals using their computer equipment and their time to promote a candidate should be exempt from the definition of contribution or expenditure. And believe that should include all equipment available to individuals provided by public libraries, place of business or schools. We also think that if a corporation, union or individual employer provided equipment for an individual to exercise their free speech rights, that individual unpaid by the corporation, union or individual employer, that person's volunteer effort should be unregulated. We agree that the purchase of mailing lists should be considered as an expenditure or contribution to the candidate. We agree that the Media promoting their candidates in the form of editorials or links to campaign web sights, would not be contributing to a candidate as per the media exemption above. Media and Individuals should be free to download materials from a candidate or parties web sight and disperse these materials without it considered as republication activity or and in kind contribution.





Regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Internet Communications

pg 2 of 3

June 3, 2005

The Internet helps democratize the media. This is the venue for individual citizens to voice their opinions and gather information from alternate news sources. It must be protected only to the extent absolutely required to protect against abuse.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on the New Proposed Rule Making on Internet Communications. As concerned citizens, we'll be monitoring your decisions.

Sincerely,

BlueWave New Jersey  
Media Reform Legislative Group

Printed Name	Address	Signature
Joanne Zippel	Montclair, NJ 07042 26 Norman Rd.	<i>Joanne Zippel</i>
Carrie Cantor	209 Montclair Ave Upp Montclair NJ 07043	<i>Carrie Cantor</i>
OREN SVETILAS	694 PROSPECT AVE W. O. NJ 07057	<i>Oren Svetilas</i>
Nancy Vogel	21 Burnard Street Montclair, NJ 07043	<i>Nancy Vogel</i>
Joyce Frommer	2 Laurel Place Glen Ridge NJ 07028	<i>Joyce Frommer</i>
Robert Seaman	11 Hillside Ave Glen Ridge NJ 07028	<i>Robert Seaman</i>
Rita J Maggio	415 Claremont Ave 3B Montclair, N.J. 07042	<i>Rita J Maggio</i>





Regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Internet Communications  
pg 3 of 4  
June 3, 2005

**Printed Name**

**Address**

**Signature**

Ann Reia

197 Christopher St  
Montclair NJ

Paul Skell

40 Glenwood Rd  
Upper Montclair NJ 07043

Joan Farber

146 Castle Ridge Dr, Hanover, NJ  
07936

