MEMORANDUM

TO: THE COMMISSION
    STAFF DIRECTOR
    GENERAL COUNSEL
    FEC PRESS OFFICE
    FEC PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

FROM: OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION SECRETARY

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Ex Parte COMMUNICATION
    RE: NPRM – Internet Communications

Transmitted herewith is a communication received by Vice Chairman Toner regarding the above-captioned matter.

Attachment
Dear Commissioner Toner,

I read an article in the O.C. Register today, regarding court-mandated rule-making (by the FEC) to govern political speech and campaign spending on the Internet.

I am a person of no party affiliation. I am not an independent. I am undeclared.

I cannot imagine anyone in the U.S. regulating my opinion about political issues, as I participate in discussions held on BLOGS. For that matter, I cannot imagine anyone in the U.S. regulating the opinion of those with a party affiliation regarding political matters at anytime.

I have no idea how you feel on this subject. I have no idea of your party affiliation. I hope you are not one who has been duped into thinking that regular people, the peons, should have their speech regulated, unlike newspapers and news services (read corporations). Surely you can see how unconstitutional and anti-democratic this is.

I am a business owner - a landlord. And I should have just as much say and opinion as the newspapers (corporations) have daily in their opinion sections. And my only option should not be one, that has me subject to the newspapers choosing who it is that they want to screen, edit, filter and print. The internet, in a small token way, allows my opinion to be seen when I want it, as the newspaper has power to print and disperse what it chooses, when it wants. Furthermore, the newspapers and news services are not the exclusive dispensers of the truth. When you read the papers as much as I do, well, the contradictions from one day to the next can be more than laughable. So don't put the press on some almighty stand only to have the individual looking up from the gutter. We are to be on a par. After all this is America, right?!

Be extremely careful in what you propose and vote on, in order that you not take away my individual rights.
There are no rights of the corporation, in this case - the press, that should exceed my right to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,
Steve Shubin
La Habra Heights, CA