



U.S. Public Interest Research Group

National Association of State PIRGs

April 25, 2000

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Rosemary C. Smith
Assistant General Counsel
Federal Elections Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC, 20463

Dear Ms. Smith,

Thank you for requiring much needed electronic disclosure. Electronic disclosure will help researchers analyze contribution data and give the public easy access to campaign finance information. Writing timely reports on campaign financing has proved difficult for U.S. PIRG because of the time that elapses between when the candidates must file and when the information becomes available on the Internet. For example, it was nearly impossible for us to write a report that incorporated recent campaign finance data for release prior to a primary. With mandatory electronic filing researchers will be able to analyze data and present their analysis in a timely fashion. Citizens will then be able to take that knowledge with them to the polls.

However, we are displeased with the \$50,000 filing threshold suggested because in some races, particularly primaries, candidates are viable after they have raised much less than \$50,000. The current threshold would make tracking important candidates campaign finance information difficult. I do not see any reason why the electronic filing threshold should differ from the normal, \$5,000 dollar threshold.

Sincerely,



Julia Hutchins
Democracy Advocate

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FEDERAL ELECTION
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