



"Kathy St. Onge" <kdstonge@hotmail.com> on 04/08/2004 07:50:01 PM

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov

cc:

Subject: Proposed rule changes comment

Please see my attached letter expressing concerns over proposed rule changes.

Thank you.

Kathy St. Onge

9498 Parkway Grosse Ile, MI 48138

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Kathryn St. Onge  
9498 Parkway  
Grosse Ile, MI 48138

April 8, 2004

Ms. Mai T. Dinh  
Acting Assistant General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission

Dear Ms. Dinh:

I am writing to express my concerns about proposed FEC rule changes that would effectively convert to political committees those non-profit organizations that have voiced any opinion about a candidate. This extreme measure reaches way beyond the intent of campaign finance reform, with the potential for seriously disrupting an organization's operating capacity and negatively impacting its constituents. Furthermore, implementing such a change in the midst of an election year, and retroactively to boot, is unseemly, unfair and un-American.

Non-profit groups – liberal, conservative or down-the-middle - have a right to advocate for political *positions* that support their causes. That includes stating an opinion, positive or negative, about a candidate relative to those positions. In my mind (as, I believe, also in the opinion of Congress), this is entirely different from a group whose soul purpose is to elect a particular candidate. Section 527 groups are required to fully and publicly disclose their finances, but rightly were not restricted by Congress in their activities and speech. 501 (c) (3) organizations also already have adequate regulations in place.

The spirit of campaign finance reform was to diminish corporate influence over U.S. politics. The average Joe and Jane need more of a voice, and personally I find mine is amplified by joining with like-minded others in non-profit advocacy organizations. Adopting the proposed rule change has the dangerous potential of silencing many Americans, another turn of the wheel on our 180-degree tangent away from free speech rights.

Sincerely,

Kathryn St. Onge, R.N.