



Joanna Shannon <jo46227@yahoo.com> on 04/04/2004 10:40:53 AM

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov
cc:

Subject: Political Committee Status

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Ms. Mai T.Dingh
Acting Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Committee
999 E Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Ms Dingh,

I am writing you this letter in response to the FEC's consideration of amending the definition of a political committee. Amending, in this instance, doesn't really mean you are changing the definition, but seeking to add verbiage to the definition that will force the majority of non-profit groups to make a decision. Either less funding by their supporters, because they have been re-classified as a political committee, and donations are capped. Or, they can abide by a rigid set of by-laws, that would prevent any criticism or commendation of public policy or political leaders having a significant impact on the organization.

As a member of several non-profit organizations, I rely on the information given to me by these organizations regarding public policy. For example, I am concerned about our waterways. I am also a member of a non-profit group with the goal of clean waterways. I rely on the information I receive from the non-profit group regarding pending policy and who in Washington supports a bill or is working to bury it. This information is free and factual. If I then choose to make a donation to help pay for advertising, etc. to facilitate said non-profit group in creating awareness among others, that action should not be regulated by the FEC.

Is it the FEC's goal to "gag" non-profit groups for passing free and factual information to their members? Isn't this the real issue at hand? What happened to Freedom of Speech? And what, by the way is happening to America, land of the FREE?
Please do not approve the proposed rules/changes.

Sincerely submitted by,

Joanna L Shannon
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