



Jeff Flovin <jeff_flovin@yahoo.com> on 04/02/2004 11:24:40 AM

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov
cc:

Subject: FEC - 11 CFR Parts 100, 102, 104, 106, and 114 Comments

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- Federal Election Committee 010404.doc

Federal Election Committee
999 E. Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

4-Apr-04

Re: 11 CFR Parts 100, 102, 104, 106, 114 Proposed Rules

Dear Ms. Mai T. Dinh

I have recently read your proposed rule changes, which would limit or deny a non-profit organization from expressing public comments regarding a federal election. After reviewing the document, it appears this proposed rule change will take away an organization's First Amendment rights, by effectively taking away their freedom of speech and opinion. I find this appalling that a government organization would want to take away these rights, especially in a time when many of our rights have already been taken away through the National Security Act and the Patriot Act. If anything, freedom of open speech is one of the few rights, although rapidly diminishing through censorship of the press by the Bush Administration, we have left in this country.

In an election, we encourage people to vote their opinion, and select the candidate whom supports their personal views, and the person regardless of political affiliation they feel would be best suited for the position. Just because a group of people decides to organize and express their opinions in the same manner, does not deny their right to express this opinion in a public venue. According to the First Amendment, and assuming we still live in a democracy (actually imperialistic), everyone in this country should have the right to express their views on an election. These individuals and organizations that do publicly express their opinions, are the only avenue of information we the people, have left to receive information representative of the people, and not of corporate beliefs and policies.

If the Federal Election Committee (FEC) is committed to taking the rights away from non-profit organizations, should they consider taking away the rights of other groups also? It is my opinion, if the FEC is to move forward, then special interest groups and lobbyists should fall under these same rules, as they are also expressing opinion in one manner or another, often times for non-profit organizations themselves. In addition, most lobbyists are expressing corporate opinion and policy, which is rarely representative of the people's opinion. If the FEC intends on limiting public opinion, then all groups should be denied the ability to express their views both publicly and in Washington.

If there is one thing that the FEC should be addressing, is making the election fair for all the candidates, regardless of political party affiliation. As we stand not in our current two party political system, there are simply not enough candidates with alternative views and ideas on how policy should be written and administered in this country, whom have the ability to reach out to the people. The main reason for this separation is money. Political Action Committees (PAC) are the downfall of the current election process. The FEC though they were helping the situation when they limited the amount of money an individual or organization could contribute to a PAC, However, they did not limit the number of PAC's a candidate could have. Nothing has been solved

through the limit of contribution size, since the contribution limit can be donated to an infinite number of PAC's. If the FEC were really interested in creating fair federal elections, they would be sure each candidate had equal financial support to get their message out to the people of this nation.

Our current system is atrocious, and not representative of the people's views, and now the FEC is proposing to once again, in what was a free democracy in America, to take away or right of free speech. The intent of the FEC should be to restore the people's right to express their opinion, organized or not.

Sincerely,

Jeff Flovin

Citizen for the Restoration of Democracy in the United States