



Rich Myers <myersrich@juno.com> on 04/01/2004 07:56:10 PM

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov  
cc:

Subject: Proposed Rule Changes for Political Committee Status

Copy of Comment is Attached

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- FEC Rules Comment 04-01-2004.doc



April 1, 2004

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

Re: Proposed Political Committee Status Rule Change

To the Commission,

We strongly object to the proposed rule changes that would treat non-profits as federal political committees should such groups engage in activities that educate citizens about the positions and actions of federal elected officials who are engaged in re-election campaigns. The proposed policy is nothing more than an incumbent protection plan that seeks to shield current federal office holders from any informed discussion of their voting records and positions on issues of importance to a wide spectrum of activist non-profit organizations.

Incumbent elected officials already have an overwhelming advantage over any individual seeking to un seat them and these proposed rule changes would guarantee that any incumbent would face little non-partisan scrutiny of their record in office. In effect, the FEC's proposed rule changes, mean that non-profits are free to have an opinion so long as they don't express it, if that opinion relates to an incumbent federal elected official running for re-election.

When our electoral process degenerates to the point that elected officials are so afraid of criticism that they promote measures to silence any group or individual that may have different points of view, our system of government is no longer working. A government that only cares about its own self perpetuation no longer serves its constituents and makes a mockery of our system of representation. We urge you to reject these changes and support the very freedom of expression that is the foundation of our nation and our constitution. Opinions only become dangerous when they are suppressed and the ability to discuss them is destroyed.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Myers, Citizen Action Coordinator  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

cc. Senator Arlen Specter  
Senator Richard J. Santorum  
Congressman James C. Greenwood