



Mahlon Aldridge <emahlon@ecoact.org> on 03/31/2004 02:21:06 PM

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov  
cc:

Subject: COMMENTS REGARDING POLITICAL COMMITTEE STATUS

Dear Ms. Dinh,  
Please find the attached comments regarding the subject line above.  
Please contact should you have any trouble accessing the document.  
Kind Regards.  
Mahlon.

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(Please note my new phone extension below)

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Ecology Action of Santa Cruz  
Community and Environmental Excellence through Partnership and Innovation

www.ecoact.org AND www.rightlights.org  .FEC\_comments.doc

Ms. Mai T. Dinh  
Assistant General Counsel  
Federal Elections Commission

March 31, 2004

Dear Ms. Mai T. Dinh;

Please find here Ecology Action's comments on the proposed rules before FEC on political committee status. Ecology Action is a 501(c)3 operating in California. We are deeply troubled by the implications of the proposed rule and we strongly urge the full commission to reject the ruling.

Our key comment is the ruling errs in its interpretation that campaign finance reform was meant to gag public interest organizations. Such an interpretation undermines key checks and balances in our system that are already in peril due to policy fervor over national security in wake of September 11. The proposed ruling would silence opposition to Bush policy as well as any policy.

The Federal Election Commission has no legal basis to classify non-profit interest groups as political committees. Congress and the courts have specifically considered and rejected such regulation.

Please contact me anytime should you wish to discuss this in more detail.

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