



John and Evelyn Ferguson <churinga@juno.com> on 03/31/2004 02:45:16 PM

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov
cc:

Subject: FEC Proposed changes

Dear Ms Dinh,

Attached you will find my comments on the proposed changes regarding non-profit organizations.

Evelyn R. Ferguson
15 Foxcroft
Niantic, CT 06357



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15 Foxcroft Road
Niantic, CT 06357-1415
March 31,2004

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

Dear Ms Dinh:

I have learned that the FEC has asked for public comment on proposed rules that would curtail the ability of non-profit and public interest organizations to advocate for issues that affect citizens by categorizing such organizations as political committees and thus changing the long-standing existing tax-exempt laws by which many of these organizations are now structured.

It is crucial in a democracy that citizens be able to band together to advocate for public policies that they see as important. Many non-profit groups serve a vital function by educating citizens about issues and practices. Some of these organizations inform citizens about voting records of elected representatives so that citizens can hold elected representatives accountable for their votes, a vital service in a democracy.

While citizens often disagree about what is the best policy or law, if we are to call ourselves a democracy, it is important for our nation that we as citizens be informed about and advocate for policies that we believe important. For the FEC to curtail such activity is to strike a blow at our democracy.

It is my understanding that neither the McCain Feingold campaign reform law nor the Supreme Court decision to uphold it suggest that there are any grounds to support such a change as the FEC is proposing. The Internal Revenue Code prohibits 501 (c) (3) organizations from being involved in the campaign of specific candidates and other 501 (c) organizations are similarly regulated. What these organizations do do is provide information about policies under which we live or may have to live. As a voter, I consider this a vital service to help inform both my advocacy that I direct to my representatives and my vote. We need informed citizens in a democracy.

The FEC, in my opinion has no authority to promulgate rules that change existing laws. If a change is to be made, it should first be debated in Congress and not done in a manner that appears to me to be an "end-run" around the citizens of this country. Therefore, I urge the FEC to abandon these proposed changes.

Sincerely,
Evelyn R. Ferguson
e-mail: Churinga@juno.com