



Margaret Cashen <mscashen@pacbell.net> on 03/31/2004 11:32:51 AM

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov
cc:

Subject: Proposed FEC changes and not for profit groups

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov
Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Anna G. Eshoo

Subject: Freedom of Speech

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

Dear Ms. Dinh,

I am writing to protest the attempt by some in Washington to subvert the aims and purposes of the Federal Election Commission. I am referring to the current attempt to issue new rules that would shut down groups that dare to communicate with the public in any way critical of President Bush or members of Congress. It is incredible to me that the FEC has just issued -- for public comment -- proposed rules that would do just that. Any kind of non-profit -- conservative, progressive, labor, religious, secular, social service, charitable, educational, civic participation, issue-oriented, large, and small -- could be affected by these rules. This action is an attack on our Constitutionally protected rights and displays a horrible disregard for the values of free speech and openness, which underlie our democracy. Essentially, this set of proposed rules strikes a fatal blow to our system of government in order to stop criticism of government administration policy.

Just so you understand my position:

- Campaign finance reform was not meant to gag public interest organizations.
- Political operatives are trying to silence opposition to the current president's policy.
- The Federal Election Commission has no legal right to treat non-profit interest groups as political committees. Congress and the courts have specifically considered and rejected such regulation.

I urge you and the Commissioners to consider that what sets America apart are our devotion to the rule of law, not persons.

Sincerely,

Margaret Cashen

4 Skyline Drive

Woodside, CA 94062

650.529.9447

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- FEC letter.doc

March 30, 2004

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov

Cc: Senator Diane Feinstein

Subject: Freedom of Speech

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Federal Election Commission

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