



STEVEN RASMUSSEN <steven.rasmussen@sbcglobal.net> on 03/31/2004 09:31:08 AM

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov
cc:

Subject: public comment on proposed rule

Please allow the following public comment on the proposed political committee status rulemaking. Thank you.

Steven J. Rasmussen
540 College Avenue
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March 31, 2004

Ms. Mai T. Dinh, Acting Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Re: Public Comment for Political Committee Status Proposed Rulemaking

Dear Ms. Dinh:

Thank you for allowing me to submit the following for consideration as the Federal Election Commission (FEC) considers whether to amend the definition of 'political committee'.

Although I join this discussion as a bystander, it seems obvious to me that changing the definition of political committee will have far-reaching impacts on free speech, and should thereby be undertaken only with great caution and deliberation. The issue should not be decided hastily. Secondly, I worry that changing a rule at this stage of an election cycle could taint the election outcome, at a time when America needs an undisputed and scandal-free election.

I also think it would be wise to consider the reality that people today obtain information from many sources, but tend to put their trust in groups that they identify with. As an example, an environmental group offers its members a guideline on which congressional candidate has a record of environmental advocacy. As a member, I would value this information, and I would be more likely to trust the information from this group. I'm surprised that the FEC would want to restrict this flow of information.

Above all, I hope the FEC will recognize the impact of this rule on free speech. So many Americans put their trust in nonprofit groups because they speak with a similar voice, and this rule would jeopardize the survival of these groups. I simply think the FEC should encourage participation in democracy. These rules would limit participation, and this cannot be a good thing for a democracy.

Ms. Mai T. Dinh
March 31, 2004

Thank you again for considering my comments on the proposed rulemaking.

Very truly,

Steven J. Rasmussen

Cc: Senator Carl Levin
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Congressman Peter Hoekstra