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April 8, 2004

Mai T. Dinh, Esq.
Acting Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463
Via fax: (202) 219-3923

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Political Committee Status

Dear Ms. Dinh:

These comments are submitted on behalf of Vote Hemp, Inc., in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Vote Hemp is a non-profit educational and advocacy organization, exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our organization seeks to educate the American public about the uses and value of industrial hemp, and about public policy issues relating to the regulation of industrial hemp. The organization prepares and distributes regular press advisories on current developments and news regarding industrial hemp and hemp policy, and hosts a website that receives approximately 7,000 visitors per month. The website offers extensive information about industrial hemp and its regulation; offers visitors to the site an opportunity to register to vote on-line; and offers a nonpartisan voter guide, informing voters of the position of candidates for President, U.S. Senate and U.S. House on the regulation of industrial hemp. Vote Hemp has put out numerous press advisories and releases about the regulation of hemp, and the information it has distributed to the press has been widely covered in national and regional publications including Time, Newsweek, The Washington Post, LA Times and Wall St. Journal. Vote Hemp also communicates to the public via an e-mail list with over 20,000 subscribers.

Under the Commission's proposed regulations, nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations that, in certain ways, disseminate voter guides that are perfectly lawful under the current rules could be treated as federal political committees, subject to strict limits on the contributions they receive and to burdensome registration and reporting requirements.

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