

FAX COVER SHEET

TO:	NAME Mai T. Dinh	COMPANY NAME Federal Election Commission	TELECOPY NO. (202) 219-3923
------------	----------------------------	--	---------------------------------------

FROM: Christine Fiordalis

DIRECT DIAL: 574-237-1161

E-MAIL:

DATE: April 9, 2004

TIME SENDING: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 4

#8

If you have difficulty receiving this Fax, please call Christine Fiordalis at 574-237-1161.

Dear Ms. Dinh:

Attached is a letter opposing the proposed rules to redefine "political committees." Such a rule is completely antithetical to the vision of democracy held by our founding fathers and the current American public. The rule is politically motivated and does not serve the public's right and need to discuss issues and policy. The signers of the attached letter are passionate in their opposition to this assault on American liberty.

Sincerely,

Christine Fiordalis

RECEIVED
 FEDERAL ELECTION
 COMMISSION
 OFFICE OF GENERAL
 COUNSEL

2004 APR -9 P 12:08

Response once received: Please deliver immediately.

- Original to follow by mail
- Original will not follow by mail

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message is for the exclusive use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and is confidential. If you are not the addressee or an employee or agent of the addressee responsible for delivering it to the addressee, please do not read, use, disclose, copy or distribute this message and do not take any action in reliance upon it. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by telephone (collect) to arrange for its return. We do not intend to waive any attorney-client or work product privilege by the transmission of this message.

Chicago Elkhart Fort Wayne Grand Rapids Indianapolis South Bend Washington, D.C.

April 7, 2004

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

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
2004 APR -9 P 12:08

Dear Ms. Dinh:

This letter is in response to the FEC's proposed rules that would redefine "political committees" and, in effect, stifle the ability of many nonprofit organizations to participate in the political process of our country. We urge you to abandon such rules!

The hallmark of American democracy is our right as citizens to express opinions. In fact, it is necessary that we do so in order to properly educate ourselves and others about the issues affecting our lives and livelihoods.

The current effort by the Republican National Committee pressuring you to pass rules that would, in effect, shut down criticism (and even support) of federally elected officials is a terrifying disregard of free speech and transparent government. It goes far beyond any existing precedent, including the stated intent of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law and the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling upholding it. Except for running broadcast ads close to an election, the McCain-Feingold act does not change the way in which nonprofit interest groups (including 527 political organizations) operate. In fact, Congress specifically considered that very issue at least three times in the last several years and each time chose not to include 527 groups in the campaign finance reform bill.

The proposed rules essentially unravel the fabric of tax-exempt law that has existed for decades, with potentially devastating impact on such groups' financial structure and ability to raise money and operate as tax-exempt entities. The rules will dramatically impede vigorous debate about important national issues, virtually gagging public policy advocacy. Public officials will be insulated from substantive criticism and civic participation will be diminished, which is exactly the opposite of what supporters of campaign finance reform intend.

The current effort by the GOP is clearly a political tactic designed to stifle criticism of President Bush and the policies of his administration in this election year. It is not positive campaign finance reform which, in any case, is not the purview of the FEC but of Congress and the American people. We, the signers of this letter and deeply concerned citizens, urge you to abandon these outrageous proposed rules. Do not let political pressure intimidate you! Discard these rules and we will stand behind your decision to take the high road in protecting our basic American liberties of organization, dissent and discussion. Deliberation of the issues facing our country are too important, too vital for the wellbeing of the entire global community, to be subjected to manipulation and restriction.

Sincerely yours,

Concerned Citizens in Indiana and Michigan
(signatures attached)

Christine Fiordalis
CHRISTINE FIORDALIS

1310 E. South St.
S. Bend, IN

46615

Kathleen Keasey
Kathleen Keasey

1217 E. Bronson St.
South Bend, IN 46615

46615

Patricia Cosenza
PATRICIA COSENZA

1040 BANCROFT
MISHAWAKA IN

46544

Stephen Fredman
Stephen Fredman

50622 Country Knolls Dr.
Granger, IN

46530

Lisa Eck

4504-2B Hickory Rd.
Mishawaka, IN 46545

Debbie Ray
Res. Ind. Inlets

19605 Rolling Acres Dr
South Bend, In 46614

Ron Flouy

939 HANDBEAR RD
MISHAWAKA, IN 46544

1336 EAST WAYNEST SOUTH

Stina Schert

4427 IRISH HILLS SOUTH BEND, IN

William Clark

131 N 6th ELKHART IN 46516 46614

Paul R. Clark

914 Altgeld ST, South Bend IN.
46614

Michelle

809 W. Cramer St. Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Rachel Rodriguez

1522 Rosemary Lane # E South Bend, IN 46613

Marcus Ellison

615 Preston Dr. South Bend, IN 46615

Cheri Brown

Judy Fox

16030 Baywood Lane, Granger, IN 46530

Carol Dillan

603 Peachway, So. Bend, IN 46617

Michael Boles

537 Calhoun St Mishawaka, IN 46545

Robert Waryp

406 Parkovash Ave. So. Bend, IN 46617
1732 1/2 LINCOLNWAY E. MISHAWAKA, IN 46544

Dale J. Blatz

Christopher Fox

16030 Baywood Lane Granger IN 46530

Lusan E. Bella -
Howland

58455 Beech Rd
Michawaka, IN 46544

46544

Janice Bella

25685 Lay Trail
No. Liberty, IN 46554

46554

James Bella

25685 Lay Trail
No. Liberty, IN 46554

46554

Judith Rubelacke

515 S. Meade St.
South Bend, In. 46619

46619

Carol Foldesi

22491 Madison Rd.
South Bend, IN 46614

Barbara Fredman

50622 Countryknolls Dr
Granger IN 46530

Jacqueline Foley

329 N. BYRKIT ST.
MICHAWACK, IN 46544