

# ART DIRECTORS GUILD & SCENIC, TITLE and GRAPHIC ARTISTS

## FAX

DATE: APRIL 8 2004

TO: MAI T. DINH, ACTING ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

FAX: (202) 219-3923

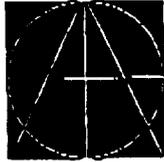
FROM: SCOTT ROTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FEC CHANGES

Memo:

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS ONE 3

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# ART DIRECTORS GUILD & SCENIC, TITLE and GRAPHIC ARTISTS VIA FACSIMILE & REGULAR MAIL

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April 8 2004

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

Re: Proposed FEC Changes

Dear Mai T. Dinh:

On behalf of the 1500 member strong Art Directors Guild & Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists, IATSE Local 800, we'd like to go on record -- in the strongest possible manner --in opposition to the new FEC proposed rules which would shut down unions and other groups who'd have the temerity to communicate with the public in any way critical of President Bush. The rules would clamp down on most efforts -- including even nonpartisan ones -- to register and turn out union and progressive voters.

We cannot be present for the public hearings on these rules scheduled, as we've been informed, for April 14 and 15. In our absence, we urge your serious consideration of the following facts:

- It's outrageous that the FEC would try to outlaw groups from speaking out about the policies and records of President Bush and other officeholders who are federal candidates, especially in the middle of an election year.
- Unions in particular have a long history of speaking out about public issues and officeholders, registering voters and boosting civic participation. Union members support these activities but this proposed rule could arbitrarily force unions to sharply reduce or forgo them.
- Nothing in the McCain-Feingold law or the Supreme Court's decision upholding it empowers the FEC to adopt these rules. That law is only about banning federal candidates from using unregulated contributions ("soft money"), and banning political parties from doing so, because parties sponsor those candidates.

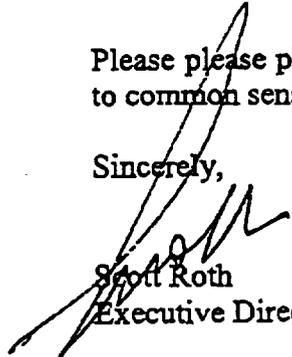
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Mai T. Dinh  
April 8, 2004  
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- It's clear that -- with one exception relating to running broadcast ads mentioning candidates close to an election -- the new law wasn't supposed to interfere with the advocacy and activities of *independent* nonprofit groups -- including unions that have never been subject to such intrusive regulation by the FEC.
- If the FEC does decide to issue any new regulations, it would be extremely disruptive and unfair to apply them to the 2004 election. Unions and other groups have relied on the current rules and undertaken significant commitments; they would need time to adjust to the new rules. That's how McCain-Feingold itself was implemented -- it was enacted in March 2002 but went into effect after the November 2002 election.

Please please please do not enact the proposed rules -- they are an affront to common sense, free speech, and yes, to democracy.

Sincerely,



Scott Roth  
Executive Director