

Catherine Miller
2641 N. Hackett
Milwaukee, WI 53211

March 31, 2004

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

Dear Ms. Dinh:

I write to protest the proposed rule changes which would limit nonprofit organizations' ability to express opinions on public policy. Freedom of expression related to the discussion of public policy should never be curtailed in this country.

I belong to or support many of the organizations that would be adversely affected by the proposed rule change. I believe that this is a blatant attempt to silence opposition to Bush policy and would not be happening at this time if the Administration enjoyed broader support. Consideration of these rule changes in the heat of the election year is further evidence of the political nature of this effort.

These changes would be devastating to non-profits of all stripes that seek to promote or impact public policy. The limitations that were imposed by the campaign finance reform legislation were specifically NOT applied by Congress to these kinds of organizations. Additionally the fiscal impact on them would be disastrous, since the federal election rules are totally foreign to how 501 c 3's have been structured and supported over the years.

I do not believe the FEC has the right to halt the legitimate activities of nonprofit organizations. Education and advocacy, as well as voter mobilization, can only enhance our democracy. How can the U.S. promote democracy abroad when it curtails democracy at home? A vibrant democracy depends on the ability of its citizens to argue and debate, promote and advocate positions across the spectrum of thought so that voters can make informed decisions.

I urge the FEC to come out **against** these rule changes in order to protect our democracy, which is already under siege from so many sides.

Sincerely,



Catherine Miller

Cc: Senator Herb Kohl

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL