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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
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April 1, 2004

Dear Ms. Dinh,

I am writing in regard to the proposed amendments to the definition of "political committee" applicable to non-connected committees. It is my understanding that the proposed amendments would treat non-profit interest groups as political committees, which in turn could cripple groups that communicate with the public in any way critical of President Bush or members of Congress. These rules show a terrifying disregard for the values of free speech and openness that underlie our democracy.

The Federal Election Commission has no legal right to treat non-profit interest groups as political committees. In the past, such regulation has been specifically considered and rejected by congress and the courts. Campaign finance reform was not meant to gag public interest organizations.

Please Respond. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,



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