

Attn: Ms. Mai T. Dinh  
Acting Assistant General Council

FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

2008 APR -5 A 10:00

Ms. Dinh;

This proposed ruling of the FEC regarding political committee status is not only insane it is directly opposed to the basis upon which our Founding Fathers built this country. Essentially what this will accomplish is a silencing of free speech. It is a national tradition for the American people to not only think for themselves, but to speak out.

When Thomas Jefferson stood on that balcony in Boston and read out the Declaration of Independence he began that tradition of speaking out against the wrongs and iniustices of the government in order for positive change to occur. He did so with the knowledge that his views would not be popular among many, and yet it is this act that we consider the defining moment of the beginning of this nation.

You would now squash that spirit and disable one of our most prized freedoms. To support or disagree with the government is not sedition, nor treason; it is democracy at work. By limiting a group's involvement and what they can and cannot say with threats of losing funding and tax exempt status you limit their ability to function at full capacity. Is the FEC prepared to take up the slack on the services that these groups provide to their communities?

To propose this during an election year only heightens the stakes, for where does one draw the line? In a time when many mundane issues become politicized, where does a group's opinion or slant cross over into a 'political' position. And where does it just cross over into the FEC meddling, in areas which they truly have no authority, with those who express an unpopular opinion and are therefore punished?

The scope of which this proposal plans to attack is beyond unwieldy, including on-line lists, medical research groups, and a multitude of other such unrelated venues. What would be the exorbitant cost of enforcing this ruling? And from whose pockets with that be coming from?

Thomas Jefferson was not in support of Federal controls. He stood for individual freedoms and local government. The FEC has no business even discussing such a proposal, not only because it is unwarranted and beyond their jurisdiction, but because it would only result in a lessening of the freedoms of which we all prize as Americans.

Thank you for your time,  
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