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Date & Time: 3/13/2004 8:39:44 PM  
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 Re: Comment on new political committees

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2004 MAR 15 A 9:13

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
OFFICE OF PERSONAL COUNSEL

ATTENTION:  
Ms. Mai T. Dinh, Acting Assistant General Counsel

March 13, 2004

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Federal Election Commission  
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Attn: Ms. Mai T. Dinh

2004 MAR 15 A 9:13  
FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

Ms. Dinh,

My name is Robert Beller, and I'm commenting on the new "527" committee's that are popping up all over the place during this election cycle as a result of the new finance laws.

Looking over both FEC and other data on who runs these groups, it's apparent that they are not "non-political issue oriented groups", instead one is run by the former chief of operations for one of the two major parties. At least 3 have people who have been heads of state organizations for major parties working in their management. The idea that these folks are going to suddenly stop coordinating with their former organizations is not only transparent, but also insulting to anyone who looks into them.

Most, if not all, of these major new committee's have stated that they are working for or against the election of a candidate, or reelection of current office holders, which by FEC rules makes them political committees. They are not issue-oriented committees, or even pretending to be issue oriented, which would make them legitimate under the new laws.

These committees need to be governed by the same rules that apply to regular party committees; unlimited spending was the reason for much of the campaign finance law we now have on the books. The new rules, instead of checking that spending have made it easier, and less accountable than it was in years past.

It's hard to have faith that we'll have fair elections, or campaign reform, when we've just moved the money from one account to the other, and taken away most of the checks that were on the old accounts.

Please enforce campaign laws, and make the 527's accountable.

Robert Beller  
Zion, IL