

TREASURERS AND TICKET SELLERS UNION LOCAL 751

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April 2, 2004

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

Dear Mai:

It is 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. These rules would shut down the legitimate activities of unions and other nonprofit organizations.

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.

It's clear that 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.

Yours very truly,

Joseph Scanapicco, Jr.
President

JS:kmb