

JOHN MCCAIN
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FEDERAL ELECTION
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United States Senate

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June 3, 2002

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VIA FACSIMILE

Ms. Rosemary C. Smith
Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
Washington, DC 20463

Re: Notice 2002-7

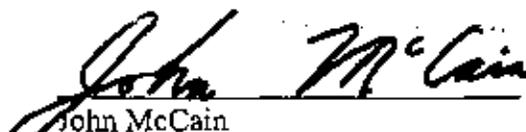
Dear Ms. Smith:

I am writing in response to the comments jointly filed in the above-referenced proceeding by the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. In their comments, the DNC, DSCC, and DCCC cited my floor statement of March 20, 2002, regarding limits on Leadership PACs' non-federal accounts. The Democratic party's comments then make the extraordinary leap of arguing that national party committees should similarly be permitted to raise non-federal funds subject to federal source and amount restrictions.

Congress was absolutely clear that national party committees may not raise, spend, or direct non-federal funds. Moreover, the Senate specifically rejected an amendment that would have allowed party committees to continue to raise soft money subject to limits on the amounts and purposes. That failed amendment is very similar to the proposal of the Democratic Committees in their comments in this rulemaking.

I urge you to reject the suggestion that the FEC should permit national party committees to maintain non-federal accounts. Such an approach is contrary to both the clear words of the new Act, and to the intent of Congress to restrict national committees to purely federal funds.

Sincerely,


John McCain
United States Senator

cc: FEC Commissioners