From: Ardis Rettich
Reply To: rettich@sbcglobal.net
To: agencypro2008@fec.gov; prowl@pumapac.org
Subject: Comments on Compliance and Enforcement
Date: 01/05/2009 12:29 PM

January 5, 2009

TO: Federal Election Commission
RE: Comments on Compliance and Enforcement

Dear FEC,

I am writing to URGE you to open an audit "for cause" of the Obama for America Campaign (FEC Resgistration # C00431445) and the Obama Victory Fund (C00451393). I am a member of Puma PAC, People United Means Action, a democratic reform movement of grass-roots voters. http://pumapac.org

The recent Presidential Election has brought to light the need to update and upgrade the regulatory capabilities of the FEC. Publicly funded candidates know they must be able to account for their finances. But what happens when there is no audit mandated?

President-elect Barack Obama spent a record $741 million on his campaign but has disclosed donors for only $485 million of his windfall. Many of those donors are subject to questions about exceeding campaign donation limits and being legitimate donors. His campaign spent $309 million on Broadcast Media while groups like ACORN received funding and abused voter registration processes. Obama further refuses to disclose information about his own citizenship, employment, health and education as the American Public tries to figure out, "What the heck is going on, here?"

How did Barack Obama get away with filing expenses for $255 Million more than he showed donation receipts for?

The following are now necessary to protect the integrity of the process:

The campaign finances of Barack Obama should be audited at the campaigns expense.

The Commissions ability to review campaign finance reporting must be upgraded and updated for more thorough checks for compliance at the time of submission, with unacceptable reports rejected and late fees applied.

The Obama campaign produced over 2.5 million donor transactions. The submissions were riddled with errors on city, state and zip code information and a single donor could have several name variations. Some of the records were flagrant trash like Jfggjjfgj, Jgtj and Khv, Khv and Hkvkv, K Vkn K V and Hdusahfd, Dahsudhu. Numerous donors had a single letter given for their last name. Others were listed as Anonymous. Most of these are errors that can be checked by a computer routine, up receipt. If the candidate is unwilling to proof their own submissions, then the FEC should have procedures for such checks upon submission and reject reporting with errors over specified tolerance levels. And late reporting penalties should be applied.

And then there is the issue of "foreign donors". There are over 4,000 donors listed in the Obama donor records that have foreign address information, totaling more than $6 MILLION DOLLARS. Most of these donations are not obviously with the military or government serviced there.. The form apparently has no entry for foreign country specification. There are no notes about affirming the donor's American Citizenship. These donors should have some additional reporting requirements.

The numerous campaign limit exceedances, large expense/receipt discrepancy and questionable donor record reporting warrant an audit of the Obama Campaign Finances.

The American People need an audit of the Obama for America (C00431445) and Obama Victory Fund (C00451393). We are depending on the FEC to assure compliance with fair practices. Please audit the Obama Presidential Campaign Funds.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ardis Rettich, California
Puma PAC Member