From: Catherine Gutman
To: agencypro2008@fec.gov
Subject: Obama Campaign Finances
Date: 01/04/2009 02:10 PM

Dear FEC,

I write to vehemently protest your decision to not audit the campaign funds which were received by the Obama campaign. There has already been more than adequate reason available in the public domain for you to conclude that Obama's compaign contributions are in need of investigation and audit. In particular, I am very concerned that persons who are not U.S. citizens contributed substantial amounts to Obama's compaign, and also that large amounts of money came in from donors who were not identified, and may represent fraudulent donations using fictitious names.

Your failure to conduct even the most cursory investigation is already having a disastrous effect on the confidence our citizens can have in the legitimacy of our electoral system. When a candidate has financial resources that are nine-fold greater than those of his rival, the election can easily be seen as having been purchased. When the sources of such significant advantage are allowed to remain hidden, voters can reasonably conclude that the federal oversight of elections has also been corrupted. I am having trouble avoiding that conclusion myself.

I urge you to conduct a complete, persuasive, and transparent audit and review of the funds raised for this year•s presidential campaign. Anything less would be completely inadequate and would erode the confidence of the electorate in the sanctity of our democratic systems.

Sincerely,

Catherine R. Gutman, Ph.D. (Brooklyn, NY)