

Hank Chapot - Green Party Candidate, 14th Assembly District - CA.
575 - 58th St. Oakland, CA. 94609 510.654.5311

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to: Federal Elections Commission - Office of the General Council
999 E st. NW
Washington DC 20463

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*COMMENTS
AOR 1996-35

re: Advisory opinion request AOR 1996-35

I am submitting comments on the Advisory Opinion request 1996-35, filed August 9, 1996. Please include my comments in your deliberations on the AOR. I am an active member of the California Green party and a candidate for the State Assembly, but I was not informed that the AOR had been submitted. When reading my comments, you may understand why the fact that the AOR was submitted was not widely known in Green State Parties in the USA.

Thank you, *Hank Chapot, Oakland CA.*
Hank Chapot 8/4/96

* DGC granted extension
of AOR comment period
under 11 CFR 112.3(b)
to accept these comment

[Signature]
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re: Comments on Advisory Opinion Request AOR 1996-35

Please forward these comments to the committee analyzing the request for an advisory opinion dated 8/2/96, from The Greens/Green Party USA organization(G/GPUSA), located in Blodgett Mills N.Y., signed by Betty Wood.

Upon examination of the documents submitted by the G/GPUSA, I am requesting that the FEC delay any decision on AOR 1996-35 until all interested parties are able to comment and the Green Parties in the USA are able to complete the process of establishing a national Party structure.

I have been a Green candidate for the California State Legislature twice, 1994 and currently, I am a three term elected member of the Alameda County - County Council(Central Committee) in the California Green Party State primary, I have represented the S.F. Bay area on the California Green Party coordinating committee and I was party spokesperson from 1990 to 1993.

I do not believe the G/GPUSA qualifies as a National Party for the following reasons:

1. The G/GPUSA requires yearly dues and does not have delegated seats on it's Congress for representation of State Green parties, thus allowing no representation for hundreds of thousand of voters registered with state Green parties.
2. The G/GPUSA has no rules or bylaws addressing representation of State Green parties.
3. The submitted list of affiliated parties includes a number of state organizations that have no official status as electoral parties. The clearinghouse of G/GPUSA does not have "affiliation agreements" on file for those state parties that are legal entities, nor does it have copies of these state party bylaws on file at the G/GPUSA office.
4. The list does not include the largest and oldest state qualified Green parties of California, Arizona, Maine, Oregon or Hawaii. These state Green parties have specifically chosen not to and have never been affiliated with the G/GPUSA. The list of affiliated parties is also inaccurate in that some listed states have withdrawn the informal affiliations they did have.
5. The G/GPUSA has not made contributions or other disbursements in support of local, state or federal candidates and/or state party-building efforts, voter registration, GOTV activities, voter education or campaign contributions on behalf of any of the qualified state Green parties.
6. The G/GPUSA has not directed or provided material support for any of the successful state ballot qualification drives of state Green parties.
7. The list of Green candidates on the AOR includes numerous candidates who are expressly not affiliated with G/GPUSA, including Linda Martin(HI), John Rensenbrink(ME), Krista Paradise(CO), Hank Chapot(CA), Charles Laws(MA), Annie Goeke(PA), Craig Coffin(CA), Keiko Bonk(HI), Barbara Blong(CA), Mindy Lorenz(CA), Jonathan Carter(ME), and others. most Green candidates are solely affiliated with their respective state Green parties.

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8. The G/GPUSA has provided no material support for any of the listed candidates beyond occasional mentions in the newsletter or by press release.
9. The G/GPUSA has not endorsed or nominated any candidates for local, state or federal in the past and none of the listed candidacies are projects of the G/GPUSA.
10. The G/GPUSA's paid membership comprise a very small minority within any given state party.
11. The office in Blodgett Mills N.Y is not a "national party office," rather it is a clearinghouse for it's paid membership and only refers calls to state green parties as a matter of courtesy.
12. The G/GPUSA is not directly involved with the Ralph Nader for president campaign and at the time of the submission of AOR 1996-35, 8/2/96, the G/GPUSA had not endorsed or nominated Ralph Nader for President. The Nader campaign is being run on a state by state basis and the national campaign is being managed by the Draft Nader Clearinghouse in Washington DC 1616-P ST. N.W. WASHINGTON DC 20036, 1-888-NADER96.
13. The national nominating convention held August 19, 1996 in Los Angeles for the purposes of nominating Ralph Nader as the Green presidential candidate was hosted by the Green Party of California and included all state parties and state green organizations running Ralph Nader for President. The Congress of the G/GPUSA was ancillary to the main convention and G/GPUSA did not officially participate in the nominating convention.
14. The Albuquerque Gathering in August 1995 was hosted by the Green Party of New Mexico and the G/GPUSA Congress was ancillary to that event.
15. Many of the officers described in the G/GPUSA incorporation documents have departed the organization.
16. The G/GPUSA has a serious debt problem that the qualified State Green parties are not responsible for.
17. I have been a candidate for the California State Legislature twice, 1994 and 1996, and I am a three time elected member of the Alameda County - County Council(Central Committee) in the California Green Party state primary. I did not give permission for G/GPUSA to include me in their list of candidates nor did this organization participate in my campaigns.
18. Since 1991, there has been an ongoing effort to create an "Association of State Green parties" to eventually found a "National Green Party." The G/GPUSA is not directly involved in this effort.
19. There are other membership based Green organizations in the USA, comparable to the G/GPUSA, e.g: The GreenLeft Network and Green Politics Network, neither of which participate in the G/GPUSA organization nor claim to be the "National party." Many state parties are recognized as "political parties" by the U.S.Postal service for purposes of bulk mailings.
20. Though some active members of state parties first learned about the Greens through an organization that preceded G/GPUSA, called "Committees of Correspondence Greens" (COC), most current party activists were motivated by their own state's Green Party efforts and the Nader campaign.

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21. The G/GPUSA has acted in bad faith by not revealing the fact that this AOR had been submitted August 2nd, 1996, during informal negotiations over these issues at the Green gathering in L.A. August 15-18, 1996.

22. The so-called "Green National Committee" of G/GPUSA does not have "day to day responsibility for the operations of the party," only for G/GPUSA projects.

I trust you will consider this information when you determine the validity of the G/GPUSA request for an advisory opinion.

Hank Chapot,

Hank Chapot, Oakland Ca.

9/2/96 Oakland, CA

cc: Federal Elections Commission Secretariat

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