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FEC Comment Submission (johnedwards.com)

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Comment: I am writing to comment on Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-31. I urge the Commission to reject Draft AO 2007-31, and permit individual credit card contributions made online through ActBlue to be matched under the Matching Fund Act.

As a supporter of public financing, I believe the Commission should be removing obstacles for presidential candidates to participate in the matching funds system. The Commission should be embracing new technologies and grassroots financing of presidential campaigns. Draft AO 2007-31, on the other hand, would have the Commission erect new barriers to participation in matching funds.

I understand that individuals' contributions through a presidential candidate web site are readily matchable. Why should an online contribution through ActBlue be any less matchable? The draft advisory opinion barely addresses this question, much less provides an answer, and it should therefore be rejected by the Commission.

I am one of those millions of people that have a very limited income. A ten dollars contribution from me is like a 2 million dollars contribution from Ford Motor Company. Shouldn’t my meager donation have as much value as a big corporation and be treated respectfully and recognized with matching funds? Individuals often can not afford to “buy” a politician, but we can “support” a person with as much as we can afford. Our sacrifice should not be treated contemptibly because we are poor.

Thank you.
Erna J. Auton, U.S. Citizen