From:	William Cubbison
To:	feccomment@johnedwards.com
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FEC Comment Submission (johnedwards.com)

William Cubbison

Raleigh, NC 27603

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 candidateâ€™s 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.

Furthermore, the point of the federal matching system is to encourage mass participation. The result of the draft opinion would be to significantly injure the ability of future campaigns to engage in grassroots fundraising.

Thank you.