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FEC Comment Submission (johnedwards.com)

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Comment: I am writing to comment on the role of 'pass through' PACs as they relate to the Matching Fund Act. It is my understanding that a draft advisory, Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-31, has been written which asserts that contributions via pass through PACs should not apply for Matching Fund purposes.

While it might be possible to parse the language of the Matching Fund Act to construe it to not apply to money donated via pass through PACs, clearly such a reading is the exact opposite of the intention of the creators of the bill, of people checking off a box on their tax forms, of people donating to political campaigns via pass through PACs and of people working on the campaigns.

I have checked off the form on my tax returns, and it has been my belief that such funds should apply to people donating via pass through PACs. I have donated to campaigns via pass through PACs and it has been my belief that those donations should be matched for Matching Fund purposes. I have worked as a technology advisor to political campaigns, and the use of pass through PACs has always been considered a way of removing obstacles to the fundraising process and making it more of a public process instead of the high dollar donor system that the Matching Fund process was created to correct.

The goal of the Matching Funds act and the goal of pass through PACs have been to remove the barriers to political involvement of regular citizens. The FEC should act based upon these principles, reject Draft AO 2007-31, and permit individual credit card contributions made online through pass though PACs, like ActBlue to be matched under the Matching Fund Act.

Thank you.