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Subject:	FEC Comment
Date:	12/12/2007 02:42 PM

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 my individual credit card contribution to John Edwards for President - 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 disincentives 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 contributed to John Edwards for President through the John Edwards 2008 page on the ActBlue website. I made the contribution from my personal funds (and affirmed as much) using my credit card. The contribution page I used was exactly the same as the contribution page on the John Edwards for President web site, with all of the same safeguards and disclaimers.

I understand that individuals' contributions through the John Edwards for President web site are readily matchable. Why should my online contribution 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.

The FEC should not be discouraging private citizens with limited funds from taking part in the electoral process. But by sending the message that their contributions, when sent through a safe and secure service to their candidate of choice, are not matchable, the FEC is doing precisely that. As a governmental agency employed and funded by the American people, through their tax dollars, the FEC should serve the interests of Americans and the interests of the law, as it was intended, rather than a distortion of the law intended to serve an elite few.