From: gtg724n@mail.gatech.edu
To: mdove@fec.gov
Subject: ActBlue classification
Date: 12/12/2007 01:40 PM

Hello,

I am writing as a concerned citizen about the rules on public financing with respect to websites such as ActBlue. As I understand the spirit of the FEC rules, they are to prevent large bundlers, such as in the Pioneer system or labor unions, from exercising undue influence in the electoral process. Even though they may generate their funds through individual contributions, they can serve as the final arbiter of for whom said funds are raised or directed. This makes these bundlers representatives of their own interests in addition to those people that made the actual contributions.

In contrast, websites such as ActBlue are designed to provide an infrastructure for online contributions in much the same way that Amazon.com's one-click shopping facilitates book orders. ActBlue both streamlines proper reporting and enables its users to see in near real-time the effect their contributions have on a variety of campaigns.

Thus, websites such as ActBlue are more like a political version of PayPal than a political player in their own right, and thus should have qualifying individual contributions apply to public financing for the appropriate candidates.

Qualifying individual contributions via ActBlue should be treated the same as those made by personal check.

Thank you for the time,

Bjorn Cole

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