



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission
Staff Director
General Counsel
Press Office
Public Disclosure

FROM: Commission Secretary 

DATE: June 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Comments on Draft AO 2012-17
(Red Blue T LLC, Armour Media, Inc.,
and m-Qube, Inc.)

Transmitted herewith is a late submitted comment from the Honorable Susan Davis, Lois Capps, Donna Edwards, Sam Farr, William Lacy Clay, David Price, John Lewis, Keith Ellison, John P. Sarbanes, Jared Polis, Chellie Pingree, Edolphus Towns, Theodore E. Deutch, Zoe Lofgren, and Jesse Jackson, Jr.

Draft Advisory Opinion 2012-17 is on the June 7, 2012 open meeting agenda.

Attachment



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: **Text Message Proposal Letter**

From: **"Sherman, Lisa"** <Lisa.Sherman@mail.house.gov>
To: **"pubrec@fec.gov"** <pubrec@fec.gov>,
Cc: **"TLutz@fec.gov"** <TLutz@fec.gov>
Date: **06/08/2012 04:57 PM**
Subject: **Text Message Proposal Letter**

Attached is a letter from Rep. Susan Davis and several other Members of Congress sharing their comments on the text message proposal.

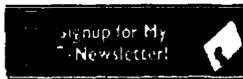
Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for allowing our input.

Sincerely,
Lisa

Lisa Sherman
Chief of Staff

Rep. Susan A. Davis
1526 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2040 p
202-225-2948 f

<http://www.house.gov/susandavis>



FEC Text Letter.pdf

SUSAN A. DAVIS
53RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1526 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3040

SAN DIEGO OFFICE
2700 ADAMS AVENUE, SUITE 102
SAN DIEGO, CA 92116
(619) 280-5353

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0553

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
MILITARY PERSONNEL, RESERVE, AND RETIREMENT
SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES
EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION
HIGHER EDUCATION
AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

June 6, 2012

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Office of General Counsel:

We write in support of allowing text message campaign contributions and hope the FEC will quickly approve the proposal to allow this practice.

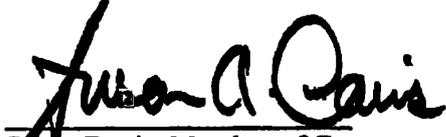
In a post-*Citizens United* era in which billionaires and special interest Super PACs increasingly dominate our political discourse, we must find ways to enhance the role of small donors. While secretive Super PAC spending by a few billionaires can dissuade people from participating in our democracy, small donors are an integral part of our democracy, and amplifying their voices can help more everyday Americans get involved in the democratic process. Our current campaign finance system was designed in an era before significant technological advances were made, and we should fully use existing technology to ensure that as many people as possible can participate in our democracy.

A recent Pew study revealed that at least 30 million Americans have texted a contribution to a charitable cause, and many individuals would likely send a campaign contribution via text message if this concept were enacted. Several jurisdictions (California and Maryland) have already begun to implement this practice legislatively or administratively at the state and local level. While we support legislative means to allow text message campaign contributions at the federal level, we see the FEC as being best positioned to allow this practice.

Many organizations, including Public Campaign, the Campaign Legal Center, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Communications Workers of America (CWA), Democracy Matters, Demos, Public Citizen, Rootstrikers, United Republic, and U.S. PIRG, support the concept of allowing text message campaign contributions as a way to get more people involved in the democratic process.

We encourage you to allow campaign contributions via text message, and we thank you for considering our views.

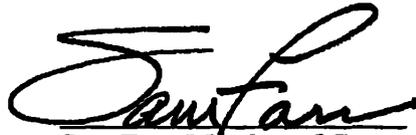
Sincerely,


Susan Davis, Member of Congress


Lois Gapps, Member of Congress



Donna Edwards, Member of Congress



Sam Farr, Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay, Member of Congress



David Price, Member of Congress



John Lewis, Member of Congress



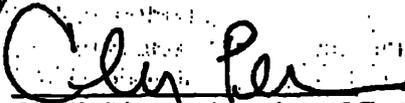
Keith Ellison, Member of Congress



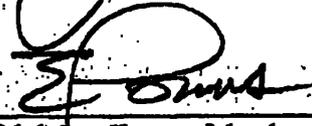
John P. Sarbanes, Member of Congress



Jared Polis, Member of Congress



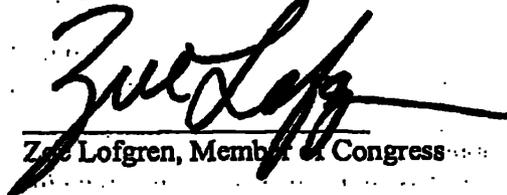
Chellie Pingree, Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns, Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch, Member of Congress



Zee Lofgren, Member of Congress



Jesse Jackson, Jr., Member of Congress