



AO 2015-04 Collective Actions PAC - public comment

Christopher Pearson

to:

AO

07/15/2015 05:15 PM

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From: Christopher Pearson <cp@biglocomotive.net>

To: AO@fec.gov,

Dear Members of the Federal Election Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important decision. The draft opinion maintains the status quo, which I do not believe adequately allows unaffiliated political action committees to employ online and social media tools. These tools were not common when the rules were originally adopted. This is why I asked for an advisory opinion in the first place.

The Commission is wise to require a hard line between a PAC's name and the use of any candidate's name. Our election process is not well served if donors are confused about where their money is going. But, an outright ban on using a candidate's name in any project of a PAC - including websites and social media accounts - effectively limits our ability to lead online discussions. This is essentially the new "town square" and freedom of speech here must be protected.

There is nothing that prevents an individual from starting a website or twitter account, as examples, that promotes a candidate. But, once the spending threshold is reached, that individual must act through a PAC. Therefore, it would seem regulations discriminate between online accounts that spend over \$1,000 and those that do not. In my opinion this is hard to justify.

I am on vacation with my family but am happy to be available during your meeting if I can be helpful. Please let me know by email if there is a number I should call into. Alternatively, please feel free to reach me on my cell phone: [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Christopher

Christopher Pearson
Pearson & Company
[REDACTED]