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October 17, 2018

By Email and FedEx

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By Office of General Counsel at 5:18 pm, Oct 17, 2018

Federal Election Commission
Office of General Counsel
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

Re: Advisory Opinion Request 2018-13 (OsiaNetwork LLC)

Dear Commissioners:

I represent OsiaNetwork LLC (“OsiaNetwork”) in connection with the above-referenced advisory opinion request (“AOR”). I write briefly to respond to the comment submitted to the Commission by Free Speech for People and posted on the Commission website on October 9, 2018 (the “Comment”).¹

The Comment claims that OsiaNetwork’s proposal misconstrues the volunteer exception. That is incorrect. OsiaNetwork’s proposal is expressly permitted by statute and contemplated by FEC regulations, which exempt voluntary Internet activities from being treated as a contribution.² These regulations define “internet activities” and “equipment and services” very broadly so that “future advances in technology” and “future innovations in computer equipment and services” are covered by the regulations.³ OsiaNetwork’s proposal is the very type of innovation that the volunteer exception and FEC regulations contemplate.

The Comment also has a mistaken view of the practical implications of OsiaNetwork’s proposal. OsiaNetwork’s proposal would permit millions of people—essentially, anyone with a

¹ We request that the Commission grant an extension under 11 C.F.R. § 112.3(b), so that this comment may be deemed timely.

² See AOR at 1, 5-6, 9-10 (citing 52 U.S.C. § 30101(8)(B)(i); 11 C.F.R. § 100.94(a)(2), (b)).

³ See Internet Communications, 71 Fed. Reg. 18,605 (Apr. 12, 2006).

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working internet connection—to volunteer in support of candidates. Individuals are more interested than ever in finding ways to engage with the political process and support their preferred candidates, as demonstrated by the significant number of small-dollar donations in the 2016 election cycle. Because many of these individuals may not have the financial wherewithal to support candidates with monetary contributions, OsiaNetwork's proposal would help empower ordinary citizens to have a greater voice in the electoral process.

For these reasons, and the reasons set forth in the AOR, OsiaNetwork respectfully requests that the FEC issue an advisory opinion permitting OsiaNetwork to operate under the Federal Election Campaign Act subject to the terms outlined in the AOR.

Very truly yours,



Jonathan S. Sack

cc: Joanna Waldstreicher, Esq. (By email)
Robert Knop, Esq. (By email)