

The Opinion Pages | LETTER

## No Gridlock at the F.E.C.

JULY 16, 2009

To the Editor:

“Promises to Keep” (editorial, July 9) declared that the Federal Election Commission is mired in enforcement gridlock. This caricature is easily refuted. Since we joined the F.E.C. about a year ago, the agency has resolved more than 350 matters, resulting in close to \$2 million in civil penalties.

Moreover, courts have struck down or limited the reach of McCain-Feingold. Consistent with such mandates, we have exercised independent judgment, informed by real-world experience and grounded in the law, so as not to discourage political participation by average citizens. And we have done so regardless of how any resulting “gridlock” is portrayed.

But it is not enough to simply point out such problems. We have introduced a number of procedural reforms, designed to increase agency transparency and due process. Only with such change can the public know that the law is being enforced evenhandedly and fairly, with the realization that rote enforcement can chill the political participation by our citizens.

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Caroline C. Hunter

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Washington, July 9, 2009

*The writers are members of the Federal Election Commission.*

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