



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

August 26, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as a Commissioner of the Federal Election Commission for the past 11 years. I write to inform you that I will be stepping down effective August 31, 2019.

During my tenure, I'm proud of the role I've played in helping lead the Commission through a period of profound change. The Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* significantly expanded the ranks of who may participate, and what types of money may be spent, in federal elections. Through rulemakings, enforcement matters, and advisory opinions, I've worked to shape the post-*Citizens United* legal framework governing Super PAC operations (and the extent to which federal candidates may be involved with them), as well as corporate and union political speech.

The Commission has also confronted the challenge of applying 20th century law to 21st century technologies. To ensure promising new technologies designed to encourage voter outreach, small-dollar fundraising, and political association continue to flourish, I have consistently opposed unnecessarily rigid regulatory rulings. I've also been a staunch advocate for protecting the Internet as a vibrant medium for disseminating political speech and increasing participation in the democratic process. Our country should stimulate, not stymie, innovation. This is especially true when it comes to technology that strengthens our democratic values and institutions.

I am also proud of the many procedural reforms I helped craft that promote transparency and due process in Commission decision making. The legitimacy of government action is bolstered when everyone feels they have received a fair shake. In furtherance of this standard, the FEC now provides enhanced rights and protections for individuals and organizations involved in enforcement matters, audits, and advisory opinion requests.

Upon being sworn in, I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. This oath is especially meaningful for an FEC Commissioner, whose mandate involves safeguarding the First Amendment rights of the American people when taking regulatory action. Throughout my service, I have faithfully discharged my duty to enforce the law in a manner that respects free speech rights, while also fairly interpreting the relevant statutes and regulations and providing meaningful notice to those subject to FEC jurisdiction. I am honored to have served the American people in this capacity and to have fulfilled the oath taken 11 years ago.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew S. Petersen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew S. Petersen