



"m.replogle@starpower.net" <m.replogle on 04/03/2004 04:33:53 PM

Please respond to m.replogle@starpower.net

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov
cc:

Subject:

MICHAEL A. REPLOGLE
6408 Ruffin Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-5323 USA
Tel. (301) 986-4992
m.replogle@starpower.net

April 3, 2004
Ms. Mai T. Dinh
Acting Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Sir/Madame:

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) is seeking comment on whether to amend the definition of "political committee" applicable to nonconnected committees. A similar review of the definition of "expenditure" and its implications, along with the rules for allocating funds for activities involving both federal and nonfederal elections are also a part of this rulemaking.

The Federal Election Commission has no legal right to treat non-profit interest groups as political committees. Congress and the courts have specifically considered and rejected such regulation. It is a serious threat to the fundamental checks and balances in our system.

The proposed rulemaking is an outrageous overreach by anti-democratic political zealots. If enacted it would engender a sharp deterioration in our national civic life and a further sharp lurch towards fascism in America. Campaign finance reform was not meant to gag public interest organizations.

This is little more than a blatant effort to silence opposition to Bush policy. In the strongest possible terms, I urge you to withdraw these ill-advised proposals, which I cannot believe the courts would uphold.

I have founded, served on board, worked for, and helped to lead a number of non-profit groups over the years. These organizations provide great richness to our society, organizing resources and information to enable civic participation, open discussion of important public issues, and collective problem-solving. The proposal you have floated would immediately diminish these functions and act as a gag rule on civic engagement by millions of Americans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Replogle

mail2web - Check your email from the web at
<http://mail2web.com/> .



· FEC proposed rule comment 04.2004.doc

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