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Ms. Mai T. Dinh  
Acting Assistant General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20463  
fax: (202) 219-3923

April 4, 2004

Dear Ms. Mai T. Dinh,

I strongly discourage you from approving or enacting the proposed changes to rules regarding political committee status. Not only would the proposed changes diminish civic participation in government rather than strengthen it, but the retroactive nature of the changes would also violate the constitutional right to due process. If these changes are enacted, then organizations would be punished under the new rules for decisions they made based on rules that were in effect at the time they made these decisions.

Quite aside from the moral reasons for blocking these changes, I also believe that they are so unreasonable that would be likely to be overturned shortly after being enacted, and thus be a waste of effort and public funds, as well as an embarrassment for the American people.

Sincerely,



Joe Betts-Lacroix