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From: "Joyce McCloy" <jmc27106@earthlink.net>

Reply-To: jmc27106@earthlink.net

Date: Wed, 31 Mar 2004 13:14:43 -0500

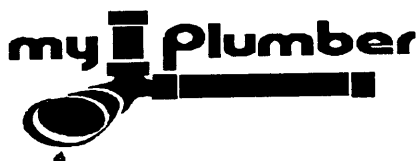
Subject: No to FEC's proposed change of non-profits status into regulated political committees

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18135

RECEIVED
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 31 11:25 AM '04

FEC - Ms. Mai T. Dinh, Acting Assistant General Counsel
Honorable Ms. Dinh:

Please accept this letter as my opposition AGAINST the FEC's attempt to change non-profit organizations into regulated political committees.

The FEC has acted irresponsibly for the past few years. Instead of protecting the public, it has taken away the independant voice, through gigantic media mergers.

Now the FEC wishes to take away the voice of the little guy, you and me.

The public will react with total revulsion to this attempt to rob them of their voice

The FEC should not, in a few weeks, tear up the fabric of tax-exempt law that has existed for decades and under which thousands of nonprofit groups have structured their activities and their governance.

The Internal Revenue Code already prohibits 501(c)(3) charities from intervening in political candidate campaigns, and IRS rules for other 501(c) groups prohibit them from ever having a primary purpose to influence any candidate elections -- federal, state, or local.

the new FEC rules contradict the IRS political and lobbying rules for nonprofits,

The chilling effect of the proposed rules on free speech cannot be overstate.

Merely expressing an opinion about an officeholder's policies could turn a nonprofit group OVERNIGHT into a federally regulated political committee with crippling fund-raising restrictions.

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