



Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Ms. Mai T. Dinh
Acting Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Dear Ms. Dinh,

The FEC's request for comments on amending the definition of "political committees" has recently come to my attention. As a college chaplain, I have no great desire to wade into the details of the FEC's proposed rule changes. So I thought I'd offer an outside-the-Beltway layman's perspective:

For the first time in years, Americans are waking up to the idea of claiming responsibility for our nation's future. With so many of us taking an active interest in what our elected officials are doing and why, I would hope the FEC would take a common-sense approach to its proposals and ask, "Will these changes enhance the nation's ability to freely exchange ideas about our elected officials or will they actually stifle free speech?" With Americans being so divided over our nation's political future, the last thing we need is for honest and open discussion to be muzzled by the FEC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

James K. Boodley
Chaplain

/jkb

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