



"Thomas F. Brennan" <tfb@sest.com> on 10/07/2003 11:33:27 PM

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2003 OCT -8 A 8:26

Please respond to tfb@sest.com

To: mdove@fec.gov

cc:

Subject: AO 2003-23

Please see attached text file

October 7, 2003

Ellen L. Weintraub, Chair
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

Ms. Weintraub.

In response to draft AO2003-23, I would like to share some of my thoughts in support of the work and commitment of the women represented by Women Engaged in Leadership, Education, and Action in Democracy (WE LEAD.)

This organization emerged from the desire of informed women wanting to take an active role in supporting the Democratic candidate for President of the United States in the upcoming national election. We women can be taken seriously if we reach out to other women who want their voices heard but can only offer small donations compared to those of larger political action groups and other special interests. If our modest contributions are combined, they will have a much stronger voice.

We cannot wait until a candidate is identified as we are a grass roots movement. It takes time to reach out to the many women who want to be involved in the political process but feel powerless in this regard.

Big money and big business can afford to support candidates in both the primary and general elections, but our limited funds, which represent much personal sacrifice, needs to be directed where they will be most effective. We feel that our donations in support of the Democratic candidate, rather than spreading the financial support across all Democratic hopefuls, is the most effective way to participate and be heard.

Your decision must naturally be made under the confines of the law, but laws have a certain flexibility and can and are changed over time as the needs of the people change. This is one such instance. I, as an interested and

concerned citizen, am asking you to support our efforts in giving a powerful voice to those who otherwise might not become involved in our democratic process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I trust that you will be able to find a way for WE LEAD to help organize women to become active citizens.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Brennan
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