From:	Jen
To:	mdove@fec.gov
Subject:	Public Comment on status of ActBlue contributions' eligibility for federal matching
Date:	12/11/2007 01:36 PM

Dear Ms. Dove,

I am writing to record my comment on the issue of the status of funds contributed from individuals to individual political candidates through the internet portal ActBlue.

I understand that the FEC is considering identifying ActBlue as a PAC, and therefore the funds generated through it become ineligible for federal match.
This decision, I feel, does not accurately reflect either the function of ActBlue, or the intentions of the donors using it as a portal through which to ensure their personal donations reach the individual candidates they have identified.

ActBlue represents a secure portal for the online transfer of funds from individuals to individuals--it makes participating in the political process easy, convenient, and secure. I'm sure you hear all the time about small-time (and not so small-time) frauds being perpetrated on the internet with respect to general commerce, and fundraising for various charities as well.

ActBlue presents convenience. Different candidates can employ the portal to receive funds without having to go to the expense of developing their own unique portals (for which a local or smaller-venue candidate may not have the funds). Contributors can donate to multiple candidates at one site (ActBlue's) without having to track down multiple candidate websites or use multiple portals for multiple donations.

ActBlue presents security. ActBlue's reputation has remained consistently credible, its financial processing reputable and its interface simple and easy to use for both candidates and donors. By having an ActBlue "standard" portal interface, candidates are able to make use of an existing tool (rather than having to reinvent the wheel), and donors are able to do the same, with a sense of security and familiarity that allows both candidate and donor to focus on the core issues of the political process, rather than confusing aspects of e-commerce.

To me, identifying ActBlue as a PAC would be equivalent of identifying a single bank as a PAC, simply because multiple account holders contribute to a single campaign. ActBlue is a tool--a framework, if you will, that facilitates participation in the political process. It would be a sincere shame to cut this very grassroots concept off at the knees, and I urge you to consider both the spirit of ActBlue's existence, and the reality of the milieu in which it exists.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Jen Sokoloski
Lebanon, OH