From: Aletia Morgan
To: mdove@fec.gov
Subject: Matching Fund Act Advisory Opinion 2007-31
Date: 12/11/2007 07:03 PM

Dear Ms. Dove,

I am writing to comment on Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-31. I urge the Commission to reject Draft AO 2007-31, and permit my individual credit card contribution to John Edwards for President - made online through ActBlue - to be matched under the Matching Fund Act.

As a supporter of public financing, I believe the Commission should be removing disincentives for presidential candidates to participate in the matching funds system. The Commission should be embracing new technologies and grassroots financing of presidential campaigns. Draft AO 2007-31, on the other hand, would have the Commission erect new barriers to participation in matching funds.

On March 22, 2007, I contributed to John Edwards for President through the John Edwards 2008 page on the ActBlue website. I made the contribution from my personal funds (and affirmed as much) using my credit card. The contribution page I used was exactly the same as the contribution page on the John Edwards for President web site, with all of the same safeguards and disclaimers.

I understand that individuals' contributions through the John Edwards for President web site are readily matchable. Why should my online contribution be any less matchable? The draft advisory opinion barely addresses this question, much less provides an answer, and it should therefore be rejected by the Commission.

ActBlue is no different than a service such as PayPal, which makes it easier for individuals to safely complete purchase via the internet. ActBlue allows individuals to safely make donations to specific political candidate campaigns.

Finally, my $500 contribution to the John Edwards campaign made through the ActBlue site on March 22 of this year is shown on the FEC

website that documents individual donations to various political campaigns. Since the FEC itself shows my donation as being from me, rather than from ActBlue, the FEC has in effect already determined that my donation was indeed an “individual contribution”. Thus, to be consistent, the FEC ruling on this matter must follow this precedent and affirm that contributions to specific campaigns placed through ActBlue are indeed individual contributions eligible for FEC matching funds.

Thank you for all of your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Aletia Morgan

26 Gallup Place

Iowa City, IA 52246

319-354-4532

==========
Aletia Morgan
ahmorgan@ix.netcom.com