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FEC Comment Submission (johnedwards.com)

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Comment: I have recently become aware that the FEC is considering passage of Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-31, which would not allow individual citizens' donations made online through ActBlue to political candidates' campaigns to be eligible for matching donations under the Matching Fund Act.

If that were to occur, the FEC would essentially be saying that my contributions to a candidate's campaign are not important, and do not mean anything in terms of public funding of political campaigns; that public funding from individuals and grassroots supporters do not count toward political matching funds. That would be an insult, and a slap in the face, to those individuals who prefer to utilize ActBlue, versus submitting a contribution through an individual candidate's website.

As a supporter of public financing, I believe the Commission should be removing obstacles 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.

I understand that individuals' contributions through a presidential candidate's website are readily matchable. Why should an online contribution through ActBlue 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.

Thank you.

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