From: Valerie Stewart
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Subject: FEC Comment
Date: 12/12/2007 05:52 PM

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FEC Comment Submission (johnedwards.com)
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Comment: I am writing to comment on Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-31. I urge the Commission to reject Draft AO 2007-31, and permit individual credit card contributions made online through ActBlue to be matched under the Matching Fund Act. Regardless of who I am supporting, this issue is of vital importance to me and millions of other regular citizens.

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 and does not appreciate the way that common citizens participate in political process using current technology available to them.

I understand that individuals' contributions through a presidential candidate's web site are readily matchable. Why should an online contribution through ActBlue for that SAME CANDIDATE 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. Please acknowledge we are in a technological age where people can submit monetary support at websites that support candidates. Or, implement your new rules for future elections...not this one.

Thank you.