From:	Lisa Smith
To:	feccomment@johnedwards.com
Subject:	FEC Comment
Date:	12/12/2007 03:29 PM

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FEC Comment Submission (johnedwards.com)
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Lisa Smith

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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.

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 candidate web sites 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.

Online activity has enabled untold numbers of Americans to become engaged once more in a political system that has become unwelcoming to average people. We can use the internet to educate ourselves rapidly, share information, and support candidates. ActBlue isn't a PAC that decides which candidates should get its donors' money--it is just a smart evolution that allows individuals to participate more fully and efficiently in the campaigns of OUR choice. Please allow ActBlue donations to qualify for matching funds.

Thank you.