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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.

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 web site 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.

I have made contributions to a candidate qualified for and accepting matching funds. I contributed through ActBlue.com. I used a credit card. I even checked with the campaign to see if my donation would qualify for matching funds and they said yes, just not as quickly as sending a check directly to the campaign. I live on a limited fixed income. It was to my financial advantage to use a credit card for the contribution and pay it off as soon as possible. To penalize me and my candidate because of my financial situation is not fair. I made the contribution at the website that I located to when I wanted to donate. No one told me it would not count. Don't penalize me and my candidate. Oh, and what if I had used a debit card. Would that qualify.

Please help us remove barriers to clean financial participation in our democracy. Do not erect more barriers helping the whealthy and well funded candidates at the expense of the common man. Let's not have another election tainted by questionable decisions. Please, if you err, do it on the side of fairness. Most Americans are already disillusioned by our electoral process. You could help by not shutting our participation out of the matching funds process.

Thank you in advance for your fair consideration of our position.