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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.

I personally have donated money to John Edwards via Act Blue, with the understanding that all such funds would go directly to the Edwards campaign; I thought that Act Blue was providing payment processing, in the same way that Kintera processes most of my contributions to various charitable organizations.

I chose to donate via Act Blue because I do not have much money, and with Act Blue I could sign up for an automatic payment billed at the end of each month to my credit card. In my case, I signed up to donate $30 each month for 5 months as that is what I can afford.

I will be very disappointed if my $150 donation via Act Blue does not qualify for federal matching funds simply because I didn't have the ability to make a single lump sum contribution at the outset. To me, that makes no sense and looks like a way to discourage public financing, as it would create an additional burden and make it harder for me to contribute to my candidate of choice.

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 candidateâ(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.

Thank you.