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Subject: FEC Comment
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FEC Comment Submission (johnedwards.com)

Ben Thomas

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Comment: I am writing to urge the Commission to reject Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-31 and to allow individual credit card contributions made online through ActBlue to be matched under the Matching Fund Act.

This draft directly affects the matching funds that would be available to John Edwards. As a supporter of Senator Edwards, I fortunately made all of my contributions directly through his campaign website, so all such contributions will count towards his allowed totals for matching funds. However, I have often used ActBlue to contribute to Congressional candidates. Though ActBlue may be considered a political action committee in the strictest legal sense, in reality it serves simply as a framework by which donations can be made directly to a given candidate. For many candidates, ActBlue is the only means by which donations can be made to his/her campaign. ActBlue does not make any decision in regards to which candidate(s) receive the contribution.

If a person's contributions made directly through a presidential candidate'(s web site are readily matchable, it only makes sense that the ActBlue contributions should also be readily matchable, as it serves the exact same purpose.

Thank you.

Ben Thomas