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Subject: FEC Comment
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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 candidateâ(s web site are readily matchable. Why should an online contribution through ActBlue be any less matchable? These are small donations given by individuals through their own decision and effort. The ActBlue interface merely provides a convenient way for people to make their donations to individual candidates. Often a donation is split among many different federal elections. I might donate to a presidential candidate, a Senate candidate, and a House representative candidate. The convenience of ActBlue is that I can make my donation in one place rather than three. Why should my donation not be acceptable for matching funds. The draft advisory opinion barely addresses this question, much less provides an answer, and it should therefore be rejected by the Commission. In place, please recognize organizations such as ActBlue as a viable manner in which a citizen can participate in our democracy.

Thank you.