From: Christopher Woods
To: feccomment@johnedwards.com
Subject: FEC Comment
Date: 12/13/2007 11:06 AM

FEC Comment Submission (johnedwards.com)

Christopher Woods

Des Moines, IA 50311

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.

ActBlue allows for any American to act as a bundler and encourage his or her friends to donate money in a simple format online--and generally in small-dollar amounts. ActBlue, while a PAC, simply provides a system that any American can use. Participatory democracy is contingent upon features like this. The folks contributing on this site have a strong desire to have their funds matched via public financing provided by the FEC.

Thank you.