From: Arthur Leeper
To: mdove@fec.gov
Subject: Draft AO 2007-31
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Dear Secretary Dove,

I write to support the grant of matching funds for online contribution resources like Act Blue. It seems to me that the entire idea of public matching funds is in danger of falling by the wayside, which would be sad. As we move forward in the electronic age, it will increasingly be the case that innovative methods will be employed to gather donations to campaigns.

I can only speak to my own experience with sites like that. In the 2004 election, although I live in California, I found myself making donations to candidates in Montana, Virginia, Connecticut and Florida. To my mind that is a healthy trend, which is made easier when there are a variety of sites that feature and advocate for those candidates, often adding significantly to their own fund-raising efforts. Two of the candidates I worked for and donated to went on to victory, and have distinguished themselves since their election. I think matching funds for the Presidential election fall into the same broad category: anything which makes it easier for donors to participate in the political process should be supported.

Thanks for your consideration,

Arthur Leeper
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