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Subje RE: FEC Seeks Comments on Proposed Embezzlement
ct Policy - Small Campaigns Impact

Sirs:

I read your policy with much interest as I'm in my third run for a federal office. As proposed your oversight though well intentioned will insure that "the average Joe" can never run for national office since the staffing being required and paperwork is more than most can handle. If anything the FEC should be engaged in a process of paperwork simplification to insure that anyone can run for office.

I have an active staff of 5 all of whom are not paid a salary and are volunteers. Their skills though admirable do not include substantive work on a prior campaign at this level and we are all learning as we go. I write a memo or voucher for any funds to be dispersed from the treasury and have a working knowledge of what is in the bank. The account was opened using my social security number and I find myself billed by the IRS for the campaign losses or fines which also doesn't seem right. Lastly, we used a direct mail firm, BMW Direct Mail which raised over \$200,000 but kept 90% of that raised claiming it was expenses though it seems they have some ties to the mailing firm and printing company they used. They had a PR firm contact me which knew far too much about the fundraising and had one of the BMW people working with them as well as had clients running as I was which seemed a conflict of interest. We have no recourse to try to get more of the money raised before the race is over. That is not right and these direct mail firms are the biggest fraud and embezzlement in the system.

Part of the embezzlement and fraud should look at the fund raising by the direct mail firms and National Committees who raise money with no accounting for that money to state parties or candidates. An example is a recent fund raiser attended by the President in the 12th District to raise money for candidates running outside of this state. First the President isn't running for office and as such these monies should be questioned as to who governs them. Second monies raised for such should have some of them directed to the state and district in which they are being raised. Over 12 million dollars per my calculations has been raised in the 12th District and not one dime has gone to this race or reportedly to the county or state party. That is not right. The RNC raises money and has refused to say how it disperses money. Public disclosure of funds raised and spent should be required. Third monies raised by direct mail firms should tell donors what % goes to the candidate and what % is used for their in-house and contracted expenses. I am not

sure that people would continue to give through such if they knew that less than 50% of their money actually goes to the candidate.

I am beginning to believe that we need public funding of campaigns to deal with issues not rhetoric as well as to insure that anyone can run for public office not just the rich and well connected. I also believe that only voters should be able to contribute to campaigns and that those running for Congress should be required to obtain 10 signatures of registered voters from every district in which they will run and pay a filing fee of no more than \$500. I firmly believe that PAC contributions should not be allowed though I accept PAC donations since I believe some of these bodies do good work and many have interested voters in my district.

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Reply-To: info@fec.gov
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Subject: *FEC Seeks Comments on Proposed Embezzlement Policy*
Date: *Mon, 23 Oct 2006 11:44:10 -0400*



Federal Election Commission
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The Commission requests comment on a proposed enforcement policy regarding reporting errors that result from a misappropriation of funds. A companion document proposes internal controls that political committees could use to guard against embezzlement and unintentional reporting errors. Under the proposed policy, committees that implement certain minimum safeguards would not be held liable if a subsequent misappropriation led to reporting errors. The proposed policy is available on the FEC web site at <http://www.fec.gov/law/policy/embezzlepolicy.pdf>. Comments are due by November 30, 2006.