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To: mdove@fec.gov, mdinh@fec.gov, rknop@fec.gov  
cc:

Subject: Re: Response to Draft Advisory Opinion 2003-23

I am writing to support the WE LEAD request 2003-23 for an advisory opinion. I was sorry that the draft opinion was not supportive of this request. WE LEAD is focused on small donors who need to be brought into the political process more. As our campaigns become more expensive and are run more in the media, ordinary Americans think they cannot have an impact on the political process and that their contributions do not matter. This is against the spirit of the election laws which limit contributions so that more people will have an impact on any candidate. WE LEAD's approach is designed to let small donors contribute when they have money, to use growing contributions of small donors to encourage others to donate, and to allow the small donors to know that the candidate will understand the impact of small donors at a critical point in their campaign. The whole approach is geared to showing small donors how they can have an impact on the political process.

Many small donors want to use their contribution to support their party nominee. The WE LEAD approach lets people donate to support that nominee when they have the money.

I encourage you to support the WE LEAD proposal as a way to fulfill the spirit of the election laws to get more small donors to contribute to candidates.

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