

October 7, 2003

Via Facsimile: 202/208-3333 & 202/219-3923

Hon. Mary Dove, Secretary  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Lawrence Norton, Esq.  
General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

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COMMISSION  
SECRETARIAT  
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Dear Ms. Dove and Mr. Norton:

I am writing to urge the Commissioners to vote in favor of WE LEAD's proposal to collect contributions from small dollar donors and hold these funds in a "savings account" for the presumed presidential nominee until one candidate has secured the nomination.

As a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates (1995-2003), I worked hard to represent the approximately 120,000 constituents in my mid-Montgomery County district. Having won my first race in a ten-way field that included many well-known candidates, I continued my career of supporting common sense campaign finance reform programs that advanced the participation of average Americans in the political process. During my 1994 campaign, I voluntarily placed a \$1000 (rather than \$4000) limit per donor. My intent was to raise the overwhelming bulk of my campaign monies from smaller givers. As you know, this required identifying a large pool of donors and then getting them to make that donation. I believe that the FEC must help take the emphasis off high-dollar donors and create better opportunities for small givers to become involved in political giving.

Finally, as a donor myself, I recognize the value of combining my contributions with others in order to have a greater voice in the political process. The reason there is a campaign finance reform movement and the reason why Congress passed legislation addressing this issue is because, as a Nation, we recognize that there is currently an imbalance in this country between small and large dollar donors that needs to be addressed. The narrowness of WE LEAD's proposal would allow this Nation to address this imbalance under the authority and regulation of the Federal Election Commission. For this reason, I am hopeful that the Commissioners should find a way to make this work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cheryl C. Kagan  
1048 Wintergreen Terrace  
Rockville, MD 20850