



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE COMMISSION  
STAFF DIRECTOR  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
FEC PRESS OFFICE  
FEC PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

FROM: OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION SECRETARY *MWD*

DATE: JULY 13, 2005

SUBJECT: *Ex Parte* COMMUNICATION  
RE: NPRM – Internet Communications

Transmitted herewith is a communication received by Chairman Thomas regarding the above-captioned matter.

Attachment




FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
2005 JUL 13 A 8:06

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary W. Dove  
Secretary to the Commission

FROM: Scott E. Thomas  
Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Ex parte communication

DATE: July 12, 2005

Attached is a letter that I received from "English First" and 12 other groups regarding the Internet regulations.

# ENGLISH FIRST

OUR SYMBOL IS THE STATUE OF LIBERTY TORCH, CAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF IMMIGRANTS WHO LEARNED ENGLISH AND BECAME FULL MEMBERS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY

July 7, 2005

Mr. Scott Thomas  
Chairman  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Chairman Thomas,

Those of us signing this letter may represent different causes and constituencies, but we all agree that the Federal Election Commission would do well to put to rest any notion that it seeks to regulate what we can say about politics via our blogs, web sites or e-mails.

Democracy can only benefit when more people are discussing and, frankly, fact checking politicians and their proposals prior to any election. The First Amendment was enacted in order to protect vigorous political debate from government interference.

The staff of the FEC has sufficient work to do already without expecting them to monitor every blog and web site for illegal "electioneering." Given the relatively minimal traffic most web sites generate, for the FEC to attempt to do so would be the equivalent of investigating a Silver Spring, Maryland, barbershop for an illegal corporate contribution because it displayed a "Kerry for President" sign in its front window.

Many of us can barely keep up with our own personal e-mail. Should the FEC attempt to monitor each day's e-mail across America for impermissible activity, it would soon realize that not only that this task not only should not be done but that it cannot be done.

Respect for the law is not enhanced when those who seek to obey federal agencies learn that the sheer size of their regulatory burden ensures the law will be enforced either selectively or not at all.

The Commission should announce that its fact-finding hearings have convinced it that Internet regulation is simply not possible and that its respect for the First Amendment rights of American citizens demands that it refrain from trying to do so.

Sincerely,

2005 JUL -7 P 5:28  
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Joint Letter of July 7, 2005, to Chairman Thomas from English First and Twelve Other Groups  
Page 2 of 2

(Note: Organizations listed for purposes of personal identification only.)

Jim Boulet, Jr.	English First
Paul M. Weyrich	Coalitions for America
William J. Murray	Religious Freedom Coalition
Michael D. Bowman	Concerned Women Political Action Committee
Ron Pearson	Conservative Victory Fund
Amy Ridenour	National Center for Public Policy Research
Richard Falknor	Maryland Taxpayers Association
Kay Daly	Coalition for a Fair Judiciary
Larry Pratt	Gun Owners of America
Sandra Crosnoe	Associated Conservatives of Texas
C. Preston Noell III	Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.
Mike Krempaski	RedState.Org
Deborah Weiss	GOPbloggers.com

cc: Michael Toner, Vice Chairman