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Regarding Agenda Doc. No. 06-53

Dear Mr. Spakovsky

Imagine this on television: "Congress just approved the Oman Free Trade Agreement allowing Oman to export over 50 million yards of textiles to American stores duty free annually. A country implicated in human trafficking will now take American jobs. Congress is considering the Peru Free Trade Agreement. Call Cathy McMorris and tell her to not send any more American jobs abroad."

One would think the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act would limit special interest spending on such ads. Your proposed new rule would deem this type of ad to be an "issue ad" rather than a "campaign ad," even though the ad names an incumbent up for re-election. It appears that an ad may not explicitly attack or oppose the candidate, but may reflect negatively by nuance and implication.

I think you can give the grassroots lobby groups enough room to run their issue ads by restricting them from naming candidates. In the above hypothetical ad, the authors could conclude by exhorting the public to call their congressmen and senators. I say, "If the ad names a candidate, it is a campaign ad."

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