



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

DATE: MARCH 21, 2005

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

MWD

Transmitted herewith is a letter received by Chairman Thomas from United States Senator Harry Reid regarding the above-captioned matter.

Attachment

HARRY REID
NEVADA

DEMOCRATIC LEADER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

March 17, 2005

Scott Thomas
Chairman
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, D.C., 20463

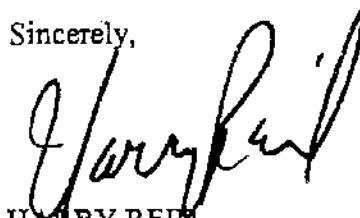
Dear Chairman Thomas:

I am writing to express my serious concerns with the Federal Election Commission's (FEC) pending rulemaking concerning internet communications and your recent remarks in this regard. Today I introduced legislation to make it clear that Congress did not intend to regulate this new and growing medium in the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act (BCRA).

As you know, the internet has provided a new and exciting medium for political speech. It has generated a surge in grassroots involvement in our government and has proven to be a democratizing medium in our political process. Regulation of the internet at this time, with its blogs and other novel features, would blunt its tremendous potential, discourage broad political involvement in our nation and diminish our representative democracy.

One of your Democratic colleagues on the FEC recently made clear in public remarks that the regulation of blogs in particular is neither required by BCRA, nor by the litigation surrounding the FEC's implementation of that law. I urge you to work with her and your other FEC colleagues in the coming weeks to avoid silencing this new and important form of political speech.

Sincerely,

HARRY REID
United States Senator