

## ROOTSTRIKERS

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Federal Election Commission  
Chairwoman Ellen L. Weintraub  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Chairwoman Weintraub:

At a conference at Willamette University last weekend you acknowledged the danger that candidate-specific super PACs pose to our democracy. You gave this country some much needed hope. But hope is not enough.

In your remarks, you explained that the FEC's bipartisan composition was intended to find compromise. But there is no partisanship to the corruption that cripples our government. Both parties are part of the problem. Both have become dependent upon the campaign funding of the tiniest slice of the American people — not to mention the funding of corporations and other non-citizens. That dependency is this corruption. Will the FEC acknowledge the deeply rooted corruption that grows along both sides of the aisle? Will you call for a hearing to discuss the regulation of candidate-specific super PACs?

In 2012 the commission provided much needed clarity on issues such as internet fundraising and texting contributions. Important work still needs to be done to determine:

- Whether a super PAC can use candidate footage, or a candidate can fundraise for a super PAC, and that super PAC still remain independent;
- If the "magic words" cited in *Buckley v. Valeo* are the only ones subject to regulation as express advocacy;
- Are there any statutory standards to prosecute independent groups who produce ads that are not "coordinated" under FEC regulations;
- Can a super PAC be run by a candidate's past campaign staff or family members?

Your first and only act in 2013 has been to raise contribution limits to \$2,600 for individuals and \$123,200 in aggregate. Are we to understand that the FEC's priority is to increase spending, not regulate it?

Americans are angry, and that anger has become distrust. The government and the FEC must act now to address the corruption that has eroded public trust, which causes many

Americans to think of both entities as dysfunctional. I urge you to hold a public hearing on super PAC regulation, and to prove to Americans that you are not the sleeping giant they presume you to be.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'L' and 'L'.

Lawrence Lessig