

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

March 17, 2005

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

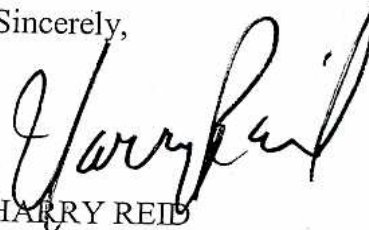
Dear Chairman Thomas:

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

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_



To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to exclude communications over the Internet from the definition of public communication.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. REID introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to exclude communications over the Internet from the definition of public communication.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF PUBLIC**  
4 **COMMUNICATION.**

5 Paragraph (22) of section 301 of the Federal Elec-  
6 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431(22)) is amend-  
7 ed by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Such  
8 term shall not include communications over the Internet."