

RAVI MEHTA
CHAIRMAN



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

September 20, 1995

Honorable Tim Leslie
Senator, First District
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Your Request for Informal Assistance
Our File No. I-95-297

Dear Senator Leslie:

This is in response to your letter requesting advice regarding the campaign provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act").¹ Since your advice request is general in nature, we are treating your request as one for informal assistance.²

QUESTION

Does the Act prohibit corporations from making campaign contributions to the candidate controlled committees of state legislative candidates?

CONCLUSION

The Act does not prohibit corporate contributions, nor does it treat corporate contributions any differently than contributions from individuals.

DISCUSSION

Section 89510 provides:

(a) A candidate may only accept contributions from persons, political committees, broad based

¹ Government Code Sections 81000-91015. All statutory references are to the Government Code unless otherwise indicated.

² Informal assistance does not provide the requestor with the immunity provided by an opinion or formal written advice. (Section 83114; Regulation 18329(c)(3).)

political committees, and political parties and only in the amounts specified in Article 3 (commencing with Section 85300). A candidate shall not accept contributions from any other source.

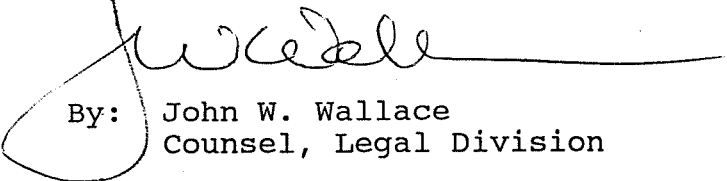
Section 82047 defines "person" as individuals, proprietorships, firms, partnerships, joint ventures, syndicates, business trusts, companies, corporations, associations, committees, and any other organizations or groups of persons acting in concert.

Thus, the Act expressly permits corporate contributions to state and local candidates. With respect to federal candidates, the Federal Election Campaign Act controls.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (916) 322-5660.

Sincerely,

Steven G. Churchwell
General Counsel



By: John W. Wallace
Counsel, Legal Division