Collective Actions PAC

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Federal Elections Commission Office of General Counsel 999 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20463 OFFICE ...

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask for clarification on PAC regulations having to do with names of special projects. Our goal, at the moment, is to help Sen. Bernie Sanders in his bid to win the Democratic nomination for President. We are an unaffiliated PAC.

On plain reading of your rules it would seem that Collective Actions PAC cannot use "Bernie" or "Bernie Sanders" or "Sanders" in the title of any project. The justification for this seems to be reasonable – to avoid confusion among donors.

My question has to do with website addresses and social media accounts. Do you consider them to be relevant special projects of a PAC even if there is no fundraising associated with the project? For example, we manage www.RunBernieRun.com, and the corresponding Facebook Page and Twitter account. Almost 25,000 people are part of our discussion and we'd like to expand that. Our followers were all part of an earlier iteration of our PAC, originally formed as "Bernie Draft" and active before Bernie Sanders was an announced candidate.

The logic behind the name of a candidate being part of a title of a PAC or a PAC project is sound. But, in our case, we are not wishing to use this project (or others – ProBernie.com, BelieveInBernie.com and so on) to raise money. The Collective Actions PAC has a number of large donors who are interested in assisting Bernie Sanders in this way. They hope to reach millions of voters and believe being active online is the way to achieve our goal.

It is our hope that you agree with our solution: RunBernieRun.com (etc.) won't ask for, or accept, donations. It also won't solicit donations for the Collective Actions PAC. It is simply listed as a project of the PAC. By removing any donation feature we hope you agree we are avoiding the potential for confusion that the FEC rightly wants to prevent.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Chris Pearson

Collective Actions PAC, Chair

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