



Auto Safety Group • Congress Watch • Energy Program • Global Trade Watch • Health Research Group • Litigation Group
Joan Claybrook, President

August 8, 2007

Dear Senator Edwards:

Public Citizen commends you for your policy of rejecting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists. We agree with your suggestion at the Yearly Kos debate last weekend that such contributions are among the tools lobbyists use to rig our system in favor of special interests and against the interests of regular Americans.

We also accept your premise that, until public funding is implemented, it will be necessary for serious candidates to accept contributions from various other sources.

However, we would like to point out that your own campaign is failing to set an exemplary standard – or even live up to the standard of George Bush and Dick Cheney in 2004 – with regard to disclosure of the bundlers who raise money for your campaign.

While we commend you for publishing a list of your bundlers, we note that your list fails to disclose your bundlers' employers. Your campaign does not provide insight into how much money your bundlers have raised nor who your bundlers raised their money from.

We hope you share our view that transparency is among the best ways to combat the undue influence of special interests. With that in mind, we are asking all of the presidential candidates who are using bundlers to aspire to the highest standards in disclosure of bundling activities by:

- Disclosing bundlers' identities (including cities and states of residence, and employers) on a prominent place on their campaign Web site that is easy for the public to locate;
- Disclosing amounts raised by each bundler within ranges of \$50,000, and promptly updating such information each time a bundler's fundraising exceeds a new threshold; and
- Disclosing the identities of individuals from whom bundlers raise money and the amounts contributed.

If your campaign agrees to these changes, please let us know so that we can update our Web site. Please contact Research Director Taylor Lincoln at lincoln@citizen.org or 202-454-5197.

Respectfully,

Laura MacCleery
Director
Public Citizen's Congress Watch