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2011 JUL -7 PM 12: 24

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**Via Federal Express**

**July 5, 2011**

Federal Election Commission  
Office of General Counsel  
999 E Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20463.

**Re: Advisory Opinion Request**

Dear General Counsel:

My name is Abdul Karim Hassan and I am making this request for an advisory opinion on my own behalf. In March 2008, I publicly declared my candidacy for the Presidency of the United States in 2012 through my presidential website at [www.abdulhassanforpresident.com](http://www.abdulhassanforpresident.com) and have made statements and held myself out as a candidate since then. Like most presidential websites, mine is being used to communicate my message and platform to the public, to advertise and promote my candidacy, and to urge the public to vote for me in the 2012 presidential elections. Currently, through a paid contract with Google, I am running a national advertising campaign in support of my presidential candidacy – the advertisement links to my presidential website.

I satisfy all the constitutional requirements for holding the office of President except the natural born citizen requirement contained in Article II, § 1, Clause 5, of the U.S. Constitution -- I am a naturalized American citizen. Up to this point, I have refrained from soliciting presidential campaign contributions because of the obstacles created by the natural born provision. Because the Federal Elections Campaign Act ("FECA") imposes numerous obligations on candidates or persons running for President and even on persons in the "testing the waters" phase, I am seeking this advisory opinion now. I would like the opinion of the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") on the following questions:

1. Whether, as a naturalized American citizen, I am included in the meaning of "candidate" or "person" or "individual" running for President as used in the Federal Election Campaign Act ("FECA")?

2. Whether, as a naturalized American citizen, I am prohibited from receiving matching funds under the FECA?

3. Whether, as a naturalized American citizen, I would be in violation of 2 USC § 441h(b) if I solicit and/or receive presidential campaign contributions?

4. Whether, in light of the steps I have taken in my presidential run as outlined above, I am subject to the expenditure, contribution and record-keeping requirements of FECA and the regulations thereunder? (Note: I have not yet crossed the \$5,000 threshold that triggers the registration and reporting requirements – it is therefore important that I receive an answer before these requirements are triggered.).

Time is of the essence. I thank the Commission in advance for its time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Abdul Karim Hassan