

Andrea Gyger

From: Faith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 10:03 AM
To: Andrea Gyger
Subject: Fwd: comments

Hi Andrea, please accept these comments for the hearing today. I am very sorry I was unable to make it in person to submit comments. Faith

Hi my name is Faith Winter, I am the Program Director for Colorado Conservation Voters. I have some deep concerns about the proposed rule changes. Repeatedly the voters of Colorado have said they want more transparency not less and this is a clear step backwards.

We represent voters across the state that care about our air, land and water that want to protect our public health from toxic pollutants. We believe it is vitally important to engage in a robust debate around these issues but a key component of engaging in a debate is transparency. With both the 30% rule on issue committee work and the 50% rule on political committee work this is a way for the larger the company the larger the influence can be without transparency.

We routinely run campaigns that are the opposite or organizations like Western Tradition Partners. Who gain support from oil and gas companies and coal companies. If these rules pass Western Tradition Partners could take millions of un reported dollars from oil companies like Halliburton. Halliburton could spend millions of dollars on campaigns before ever getting close to the 30% or 50% limit.

Eliminating public reporting of issue advocacy in candidate campaigns is extremely problematic. There are no contribution limits on these communications making reporting all that more important for voters to be able to make informed and knowledgeable decisions.

Our voters deserve better. When corporate money is being used to influence elections either an issue or a candidate they have the right to know where the money is coming from for mail, phones, radio and TV adds. Colorado Conservation Voters looks forward to engaging in debates across Colorado on environmental issues but believes that the playing field needs to be an even field so that corporate money is not drowning out the voices of our members and individuals.

--

Faith Winter
Program Director
Colorado Conservation Voters
[303-333-7846](tel:303-333-7846)
www.coloradoconservationvoters.org