

October 25, 2011

New York City Campaign Finance Board

40 Rector Street, 7th Floor

New York, NY 10006

Dear New York City Campaign Finance Board:

In November of 2010 New York City voters approved an amendment to the City Charter requiring the disclosure of independent expenditures by individuals and groups trying to persuade voters on candidates and referenda on the ballot. I believe the Board is heading down the wrong path by drafting rules that do not exempt member-to-member communications.

I have been a member of the Hotel Trades Council for 20 years. I am currently a room attendant at the Paramount Hotel. A few years ago, through a Union-wide registration drive, I registered to vote and since then I've encouraged fellow Union members to register. Now, I constantly bring up elections with my co-workers as it is important for us to build political power. Without my Union's support, encouragement and constant reminders about the importance of politics, I would not have engaged in politics at all.

I believe this is the type of participation the Campaign Finance Board should encourage. Unfortunately, your proposed rules would discourage membership organizations from talking to members about politics. In an environment like that, I believe even less people will participate, and that would be a great disservice to the working people of the City of New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hor Chhao". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.