

Hans A. von Spakovsky

1000 Pruitt Court
Vienna, Virginia 22180

May 16, 2008

Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

Re: Nomination to the Federal Election Commission

Dear President Bush:

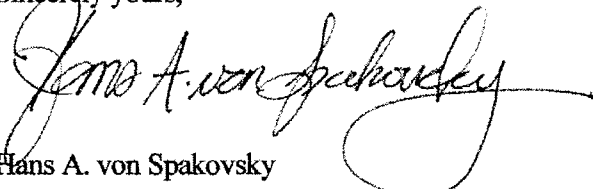
It is with great regret that I write to request that you withdraw my nomination to be a Commissioner on the Federal Election Commission. My nomination has been pending for almost two and one half years in the Senate without any resolution. This process has been extremely hard on my family, and quite frankly, we do not have the financial resources to continue to wait until this matter is resolved. I also agree with my former colleague Robert Lenhard, who recently withdrew his nomination, that it is past time that the FEC was reconstituted – the agency that is tasked with policing our campaign finance system needs to be operational during a presidential election year. The opposition to my nomination (however unfair) is preventing that from happening.

I would like to thank you for your trust in and commitment to me, and the support that you and the White House staff have given me throughout this ordeal. I am very proud of the work that I did as a career lawyer at the Department of Justice, which has been validated by numerous federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. I was then honored when you appointed me to the FEC. The day that I was sworn in as a Commissioner in January of 2006 was almost exactly 55 years to the day from the date that my parents arrived in the United States as penniless war refugees. It says a great deal about what a wonderful country we live in that a first-generation son of immigrants could be appointed by the President to such a post of public service. I am also proud of my service on the FEC, when the FEC had the two most successful years in its history, collecting far more in civil penalties than in the entire prior history of the agency. My Democratic and Republican colleagues worked together to issue dozens of advisory opinions and new regulations, to implement new policies, and to carry out hundreds of enforcement investigations. Unfortunately, these accomplishments have gone unnoticed in the controversy over my nomination.

It has been an honor to serve in your Administration over the past six years. You have led this nation through dangerous and perilous times with distinction and a constant concern for the well being of its people. I hope that my public service has helped in a small part to repay the

debt I feel that my family owes this great nation for welcoming it with open arms 57 years ago. I hope I will have the opportunity in the future to once again serve the American public.

Sincerely yours,



Hans A. von Spakovsky