



NEWS RELEASE

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NYPIRG URGES STATE BOE REVIEW OF LLC "DARK MONEY"

(Albany, N.Y.) The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) today urged the state Board of Elections to review campaign contributions made by limited liability companies (LLCs) to ensure that their political donation activities are fully transparent, that the public understands who is behind campaign contributions and to ensure that LLCs are not used to evade donation limits.

Under New York's Election Law, campaign contributions must be made in the true name of the donor. NYPIRG's review identified examples in which LLCs' names were merely street addresses and the mailing addresses were either PO Boxes or "in the care of" some other business entity.

NYPIRG urged that the Board review all such contributions to ensure that a donor's "true name" is disclosed as required under law. The request for an examination of LLC activity included concerns that LLCs may be used to evade individual (\$150,000 per year) and corporate (\$5,000 annual) limits.

NYPIRG also argued that the Board's decision to treat LLCs as individuals -- not corporations -- for the purposes of campaign contribution limits resulted in a "Pandora's box" of problems in terms of legal compliance and public accountability. NYPIRG urged the Board to revisit its decision and instead follow the path chosen by the Federal Elections Commission to treat LLCs as businesses or partnerships for the purposes of campaign contributions as is done under federal law.

LETTER IS ATTACHED

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