

ROBERT W. NEY, OHIO,
CHAIRMAN

VERNON J. EHLERS, MICHIGAN
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
JOHN T. DOOLITTLE, CALIFORNIA
THOMAS M. REYNOLDS, NEW YORK
CANDICE S. MILLER, MICHIGAN

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA

PAUL VINOVIK,
STAFF DIRECTOR
GEORGE SHEVLIN,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

1309 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-8281

Washington, DC 20515-6157

www.house.gov/cha
June 23, 2005

The Honorable Christopher Shays
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Martin Meehan
2229 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Shays and Representative Meehan:

As you are aware, the Committee on House Administration held a mark-up earlier this month of H.R. 1316, the 527 Fairness Act of 2005, sponsored by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN) and Rep. Albert Wynn (D-MD). This legislation was approved by a majority of the Committee and it is currently awaiting consideration by the full House.

I support this legislation because I believe the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 went too far in imposing severe constraints on the national political parties and weakened political committees regulated by the Federal Election Commission.

That being said, I recognize that this is an issue with many divergent points of view and I believe that those who disagree with me should have an opportunity to be heard. To that end, I am writing to you today to affirm what I have discussed privately with both of you in recent weeks, which is that I am willing to and I intend to schedule a House Administration Committee mark-up of your legislation, H.R. 513, the 527 Reform Act, as soon as possible.

Moreover, though I personally believe that the Pence-Wynn bill is the better way to address the inequities of the current campaign finance system, I believe that your legislation does raise some important points and I further believe that both of you should have the right to make the case for your legislation before the full House.

Therefore, I will not only schedule a markup of H.R. 513 as soon as possible, but I will vote to send it to the full House for consideration.

Sincerely,



Bob Ney
Member of Congress