DECLARATION OF REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN MEEHAN
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INTERVENE

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, Representative Martin Meehan declares as follows:

1. I am a member of the United States House of Representatives from the 5th Congressional District of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I was first elected in 1992, re-elected every two years thereafter, and face re-election this year, in November 2006.

2. I was a principal sponsor of the legislation enacted as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (BCRA). I spent many years seeking to promote the enactment of this reform legislation.

3. I am a citizen of the United States, a member of Congress, a candidate, a voter, a recipient of campaign contributions, a fundraiser, and a political party member. In those capacities I am subject to BCRA, and my activities are also directly affected by the fact that others, including my potential contributors and supporters, my potential election opponents,
4. To the extent that the plaintiff in this case seeks a broad declaration that advertisements run by “grass-roots” groups are not subject to the “electioneering communications” provision of BCRA, I would be directly affected by the court’s decision in this case. Section 203 of BCRA prohibits corporations from using their general treasury funds to pay for any “electioneering communications,” which are defined in § 201 of BCRA as broadcast, cable, or satellite communications that refer to a candidate for federal office and that are broadcast within 30 days of a primary election or 60 days of a general election in the jurisdiction where that candidate is running for office. If those provisions are subverted, eroded, or circumvented, I will be forced to campaign and attempt to discharge my important public responsibilities in a system that is widely perceived to be, and I believe in many respects will be, significantly corrupted by the influence of special-interest money. The failure to apply BCRA under the circumstances presented here also will affect the perception the public will form of me, my fellow office holders, and my fellow party members.

5. To the extent that Plaintiff seeks a broad declaration in this case that all “grass-roots” organizations may engage in advertising without being subject to the “electioneering communications” provision of § 203 of BCRA, I face the strong risk that such advertisements, funded with corporate treasury funds, will be used in an attempt to influence federal elections in which I am a candidate.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed this 12th day of April, 2006.

Martin Meehan