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December 28, 2007

Mr. Steve Phillips, Chairman
Vote Hope
201 Spear Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I am writing you as General Counsel to the Obama for America, the committee authorized by Senator Obama to support his campaign for the Presidency. We have been made aware of your efforts at Vote Hope, and while we acknowledge and appreciate your strong support of the Senator's candidacy, we must ask that you discontinue without further delay any further independent efforts on his behalf.

We welcome all of your support and energy if it is channeled through our authorized and official campaign organization. An independent effort such as yours, however, is simply not consistent with the Senator's clearly stated commitment to complete accountability and transparency in the financing of campaigns for public office. He believes that all contributions made to support his candidacy should be accounted for under the campaign's own limits; he believes that all such contributions, and the expenditure of these funds, should be disclosed by his campaign, so that the public has a clear picture of all funding on behalf of his candidacy and the Senator can answer for all of it.

We urge you to help the Senator fulfill this commitment, which is central to his call for reform and accountability in our politics. As strong supporters of his campaign, there is much that you and others associated with Vote Hope can accomplish for the Obama candidacy within his official organization. An independent effort outside that organization undermines the Senator's message, a result that we cannot imagine you to intend.

Senator Obama has stated clearly that "people who are interested in supporting me [should] support me through our campaign -- the way over 250,000 donors have supported us, the way

Mr. Steve Phillips, Chairman
December 28, 2007
Page 2

hundreds of thousands of volunteers have supported us." And it is his conviction that "if people channel their energies in that way, we'll all be better off."

We ask that you respect his position and, disbanding your Vote Hope's independent project immediately, commit your time and energies to the official campaign.

Please reply immediately and, we ask, favorably, to this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a long horizontal line that curves slightly upwards at the end.

Robert F. Bauer