STATE OF NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT FRANK P. REICHE CHAIRMAN COMMISSION

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May 27, 1977

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The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, Chapter 83, Laws of 1973 as Amended and Supplemented ("the Act") Your Letter dated March 3, 1977 Opinion #(0-25-77)

Dear Ms. Zubras:

Nothing in the Act or New Jersey law prohibits contributions from New Jersey corporations to New Jersey State elections, with the exception that banks, insurance companies and regulated industries generally are prohibited by making such contributions, by virtue of the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:34-32 and 19:34-45. We express no opinion with respect to whether a Pennsylvania corporation may or may not make contributions, except that there is nothing in the Act or in Title 19 of the Statutes of New Jersey which would prohibit contributions by a Pennsylvania corporation.

With respect to the gubernatorial election, there is public funding in connection with the general election for the office of Governor. As to that election, there is a limitation of \$600.00 on the amount which may be contributed by any person, including a corporation, to or on behalf of a candidate. Contributions not in excess of \$600.00, including corporate contributions, may be matched with public funds in accordance with the provisions of the statute.

The making of a lawful contribution by a business corporation does not, in the view of the Commission, constitute such corporation a political committee under the Act. Accordingly, no reporting is required by the corporation of that contribution. The candidate is required to report the total amount of contributions, and to provide the name, address and amount of contribution of every contributor whose contribution exceeds \$100.00.

Yours very truly,

Edward J. Farrell

Legal Counsel