August 6, 1979

Laurence A. Hecker, Esquire
A Professional Corporation
109 Division Street
Toms River, New Jersey 08753

Re: The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, Chapter 83, Laws of 1973 as Amended and Supplemented ("the Act")
Your letters dated February 5 and May 9, 1979
Opinion #0-05-79

Dear Mr. Hecker:

Your letters dated February 5 and May 9, 1979 to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"), including a request for advisory opinion, have been forwarded to me for reply.

We have reviewed the argument which you set forth with respect to the interpretation of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-4(d). We are unable to conclude that fire district elections are excluded from the coverage of the Act, particularly in view of the language of that section, which appears to suggest a legislative intent to provide very broad coverage to the provisions of the Act. This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that the budgetary and purchasing powers provided to fire districts under N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70, suggest a range of financial and other activity which would properly justify public disclosure of campaign related contributions and expenditures. Accordingly, we are unable to conclude that the Act is not applicable to fire district elections.

Yours very truly,

Edward J. Farrell
Legal Counsel

EJF: no