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August 10, 2011

The Honorable Cynthia L. Bauerly
Chair
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20463

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Chair Bauerly and Assistant Attorney General Perez:

I write to share with you my deep concerns over the very serious allegations laid against Mitt Romney, the now-dissolved company "W Spann LLC", and Restore Our Future, Inc., a so-called super PAC that has supported Mr. Romney's candidacy for the presidency.

Restore Our Future reported to FEC that W Spann LLC had made a donation of \$1,000,000 on 28 April, but provided no other information about W Spann LLC beyond its address. Further, the address cited by Restore Our Future in its FEC filing is an office building in New York City that has no record of W Spann LLC ever occupying the space. Press reporting later revealed that W Spann LLC had been founded on 15 March, only six weeks earlier, and dissolved less than three months later, having taken, as far as I am aware, no actions beyond incorporation and donation to Restore Our Future. It was only after complaints had been filed with the FEC and the Department of Justice, and in the face of public outrage, that Edward Conard declared himself the source of the \$1,000,000 contribution.

The published reports about this case and the allegations leveled by the Campaign Legal Center and others raise serious concerns about the role of money in our elections. FEC should certainly investigate whether W Spann LLC was incorporated for the sole purpose of facilitating this "contribution in the name of another" in violation of federal law. Even if Mr. Conard is, as he has now claimed, responsible for the W Spann LLC contribution, he has exposed the weakness in current disclosure laws. The disclosure by Restore Our Future would not have revealed whether W Spann LLC's contribution had actually originated with, *e.g.*, one of Bain Capital's overseas partners, in violation of federal law. The propriety and legality of Mr. Conard's actions

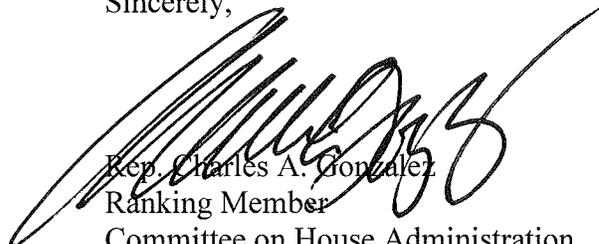
and those of everyone associated with W Spann LLC and its donation to Restore Our Future must be investigated and ascertained. An in-depth investigation of Restore Our Future's finances is also warranted, to ensure that it has properly disclosed every contribution it has accepted and that there have been neither improper nor illicit contributions. I would encourage FEC to review its own guidelines on disclosure to ensure that all campaign disclosures properly reveal any improper or questionable contributions, as is their purpose. Further, the Department of Justice should conduct a full investigation to determine whether the contribution is in compliance with all applicable statutes.

FEC's mission includes enforcing, "Restrictions on contributions and expenditures made to influence federal elections" and the disclosure laws are a significant means to that end. W Spann LLC appears to have exposed a weakness in current disclosure requirements by which improper contributions or expenditures could be made. I hope to be reassured by the actions of FEC and DOJ that:

- 1) no improper or illegal actions have been taken by Mr. Romney, his campaign, or Restore Our Future, or that any such improper actions have been thoroughly investigated and addressed;
- 2) all future contributions and expenditures will be properly disclosed; and,
- 3) that campaign finance disclosure requirements are sufficient to achieve the transparency and propriety purposed by the Federal Election Campaign Act and deserved by the American people.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to reading reports of your responses to these revelations and allegations.

Sincerely,



Rep. Charles A. Gonzalez
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
Subcommittee on Elections