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By Office of the Commission Secretary at 5:20 pm, Sep 07, 2017



COMMISSIONER ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

AGENDA DOCUMENT NO. 17-41-A
AGENDA ITEM
For meeting of September 14, 2017

MEMO

To: Chairman Steven T. Walther
cc: Commission

From: Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub

ELW

Re: REG 2011-02 (Internet Communication Disclaimers)

September 7, 2017

Chairman Walther:

Pursuant to FEC Directive 17(II)(A), I request that you place a discussion of REG 2011-02 (Internet Communication Disclaimers) on the agenda for our September 14, 2017 open meeting. To advance that discussion, I also request that you place the attached Federal Register notices, dated October 13, 2011, and October 18, 2016, on that meeting's agenda.

It is imperative that we update the Federal Election Commission's regulations to ensure that the American people know who is paying for the internet political communications they see. And it is our duty to have these changes in place in time to inform the 2018 elections.

Given the revelations of the past few days regarding the secret purchase of thousands of internet political ads by foreign actors during the 2016 presidential election, there can no longer reasonably be any doubt that we need to revise and modernize our internet disclaimer regulations. The need for us to act grows more compelling every day.

Next Thursday, I will ask that the Commission re-open the comment period for 30 days on this proposed rulemaking and ask the Commission to reschedule the public hearing we have already approved in this matter.

I intend to invite leading experts, including representatives from the nation's foremost social media and internet companies (such as Facebook, Twitter, and Google) to attend this hearing and explore with us how the FEC can craft the best possible internet disclaimer rules going forward.