April 25, 2013

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
221 Dirksen Senate Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510  

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
709 Hart Senate Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510  

Dear Senators Wyden and Murkowski:

On behalf of the American Bar Association, with nearly 400,000 members, I commend you for the impending introduction of your Follow the Money Act of 2013, a bill that seeks to close loopholes in existing federal election campaign law that often leave independent spending exempt from public disclosure.

The American Bar Association has long been concerned with campaign finance and electoral issues and is a strong supporter of transparency in the political process. The overriding premise of these efforts has been to support candidate and citizen participation in the electoral process and increase public confidence through accountability and disclosure.

Most recently, we adopted policy supporting efforts to ensure consistent disclosure of political and campaign spending by entities making political expenditures, regardless of their tax status. The policy also urges Congress to require organizations not already required to do so by current law to disclose the amounts spent on electioneering communications and independent expenditures, as well as the sources of such funds. I have attached a copy of this February 2013 policy.

We appreciate your leadership on campaign finance reform and look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Susman