

**Carpenter, Matthew**

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**From:** Elsa Peterson [ep ltd@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:37 AM  
**To:** gaemail  
**Cc:** letters.advocate@scni.com; letters@thehour.com; Sen. Duff, Bob; Rep. Perone, Chris  
**Subject:** Disclose Act  
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To My Elected Representatives:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony for the March 19 public hearing on the need to strength Connecticut's Disclose Act.

As a citizen and voter in Norwalk, CT, I was horrified at the attack ads, robocalls, and so-called polls (actually pushing a smear campaign) I received during the 2010 election season from mysterious groups I had never heard of before. Who were these groups? What was their true goal – other than to make a given candidate look bad? Where did they get their money? Whom could we complain to if we believed their ad was spreading lies or distortions? There was no reasonable way to find out.

Plenty of other people share my outrage at the influx of anonymous corporate money into our electoral process which the Citizens United decision unleashed. I've attended two events this winter featuring speakers on the topic of Citizens United, and both have attracted capacity crowds. A poll in The Hour (Norwalk) on February 26 showed that 95.65% of readers agreed that Super PACs are bad for the U.S. political system. (Granted, it's not a scientific poll, but it's extremely rare for 95% to agree on anything!)

Connecticut's Disclose Act obviously needs to be strengthened, because it didn't stop these shadowy attack ads in 2010. In this presidential election year, voters deserve straightforward facts about the candidates and any advocacy groups that run ads. Every responsible state legislator should vote to strengthen Connecticut's Disclose Act.

Sincerely,

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