

April 8, 2016

Brian G. Synoboda  
BGSynoboda@perkinscoie.com  
D +1.202.434.1654  
F +1.202.654.9150

**BY EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL**

Mr. Thomas Hinternister  
Assistant Staff Director  
Audit Division  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

**Re: Brenda Lawrence for Congress**

RECEIVED  
FEC MAIL CENTER  
2016 APR -8 AM 10:10

Dear Mr. Hinternister:

On behalf of my client, Brenda Lawrence for Congress ("the Committee"), I write in response to the Interim Audit Report of the Audit Division. The Committee has cooperated fully with the auditors at all stages of the process. Consistent with this cooperation, the Committee respectfully submits that it has complied fully with the Report's recommendations.

This audit covered the Committee's activities for the 2014 election cycle, when Representative Lawrence was first elected to Congress.<sup>1</sup> The Committee was primarily a "start-up" grassroots effort, with most of its work done by volunteers. As the Report indicates, none of the Committee's management had attended a Commission campaign finance seminar.<sup>2</sup> However, since the audit began, the Committee has taken steps to bolster its compliance operations. The Committee has engaged a Washington, DC-based firm, Angerholzer Broz Consulting, LLC, to handle its accounting and report preparation functions.

The Report's only finding was that the Committee's 2014 reports understated its disbursements by \$25,608 and accordingly overstated its ending cash-on-hand by \$23,810. The source of the understatement was the inadvertent omission of 23 disbursements that were spread out over a period of seven months, with one as small as \$0.75, and with the largest for \$3,258.86. Even before the issuance of the Interim Audit Report, the Committee cooperated with the auditors to amend its reports, and materially corrected the omissions.<sup>3</sup> In the Interim Audit Report, the auditors indicated that additional adjustment was needed to bring the cash-on-hand fully in line, and the Committee is filing amendments with this response to comply with this recommendation.

<sup>1</sup> Representative Lawrence was briefly a candidate for Congress in 2012 but did not win the primary election.

<sup>2</sup> See Interim Audit Report at 2.

<sup>3</sup> See Interim Audit Report at 5.

**Federal Election Commission**

**April 8, 2016**

**Page 2**

**The Committee is committed to continued compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, and we appreciate the Commission's consideration of this response.**

**Very truly yours,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian G. Svoboda", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Brian G. Svoboda**

**cc: Mr. Tesfai Asmamaw  
Ma. Nicole Burgess**