

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE # 3141

11/20/2011 11:00:11



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

2016 SEP 26 AM 9:46

September 26, 2016

**SENSITIVE**

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP*  
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*  
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *DC*  
Assistant Staff Director  
Reports Analysis Division

BY: *KDR* Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly *B.H.*  
Reports Analysis Division  
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Reason To Believe Recommendation – 2016 12 Day Pre-Primary  
Report (Minnesota and Wisconsin) for the Administrative Fine  
Program

Attached is a list of political committees and their treasurers who failed to timely file the 2016 12 Day Pre-Primary Report for the Minnesota and Wisconsin Primary Elections in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). The 12 Day Pre-Primary Report was due on July 28, 2016 and the Primary Elections were held on August 9, 2016.

The committees listed on the attached RTB Circulation Report failed to file the election sensitive report by the required due date. Election sensitive reports filed more than four days prior to the election are considered late, and reports not filed more than four days prior to the election are considered not filed. In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties for reports at 11 CFR § 111.43, the committees should be assessed the civil money penalties highlighted on the attached circulation report.

An explanation of the civil money penalty calculation for the committee that failed to file the report is outlined below:

The committee (AF 3141) represents a candidate that participated in the 2016 Primary in Minnesota's House Race. The committee was required to file a 2016 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (12P) covering July 1, 2016 through July 20, 2016 (20 days). In order to determine the civil money penalty, an estimated level of activity was calculated using a per diem average by multiplying the previous activity reported for the 2015-2016 election cycle (\$109,473) by 21.97% (the number of days required in 12P (20) divided by the number of days included in the Committee's 2015-2016 election cycle reports (91)).

### **Recommendation**

1. Find reason to believe that the political committees and their treasurers, in their official capacity, listed on the RTB Circulation Report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalties would be the amounts indicated on the RTB Circulation Report.
2. Send the appropriate letters.

UNCLASSIFIED

Federal Election Commission  
Reason to Believe Circulation Report  
2016 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 07/28/2016 AUTH (MN, WI)

| AF#  | Committee ID | Committee Name  | Candidate Name      | Treasurer           | Threshold | PV | Receipt Date | Days Late | LOA            | RTB Penalty |
|------|--------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|----|--------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|
| 3141 | C00618553    | COMMITTEE TO HELP<br>MATTHEW D. ERICKSON<br>BUILD AMERICA FIRST | MATTHEW D. ERICKSON | MATTHEW<br>ERICKSON | \$109,473 | 0  |              | Not Filed | \$24,051 (est) | \$1,157     |
| 3142 | C00609834    | LASEE FOR CONGRESS,<br>INC.                                     | FRANK LASEE         | JIM O'NEIL          | \$480,371 | 0  | 8/4/2016     | 7         | \$96,945       | \$1,779     |

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of )  
)  
Reason To Believe Recommendation – )  
2016 12 Day Pre-Primary Report )  
(Minnesota and Wisconsin) for the )  
Administrative Fine Program: )  
COMMITTEE TO HELP MATTHEW D. ) AF# 3141  
ERICKSON BUILD AMERICA FIRST, )  
and ERICKSON, MATTHEW as treasurer; )  
LASEE FOR CONGRESS, INC., and ) AF# 3142  
O'NEIL, JIM as treasurer; )

CERTIFICATION

I, Shelley E. Garr, Deputy Secretary of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on September 27, 2016 the Commission took the following actions on the Reason To Believe Recommendation – 2016 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Minnesota and Wisconsin) for the Administrative Fine Program as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated September 26, 2016, on the following committees:

AF#3141 Decided by a vote of 6-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that COMMITTEE TO HELP MATTHEW D. ERICKSON BUILD AMERICA FIRST, and ERICKSON, MATTHEW in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

AF#3142 Decided by a vote of 6-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that LASEE FOR CONGRESS, INC., and O'NEIL, JIM in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Federal Election Commission  
Certification for Administrative Fines  
September 27, 2016

Page 2

Attest:

September 28, 2016  
Date

Shelley E. Garr  
Shelley E. Garr  
Deputy Secretary of the Commission

1700000113020



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

September 28, 2016

Matthew Erickson, in official capacity as Treasurer  
Committee to Help Matthew D. Erickson Build America First  
12075 Grey Cloud Trail South  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

C00618553  
AF#: 3141

Dear Mr. Erickson:

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that your committee file a 12 Day Pre-Primary Report of Receipts and Disbursements in any calendar year during which there is a regularly scheduled election for which the candidate is seeking election or nomination for election. This report, covering the period July 1, 2016 through July 20, 2016, shall be filed no later than July 28, 2016. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Because records at the Commission indicate that you did not file this report prior to four (4) days before the election, the report is considered not filed for the purpose of calculating the civil money penalty. You should file the report if you have not already done so.

The Act permits the FEC to impose civil money penalties for violations of the reporting requirements of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). 52 U.S.C. § 30109g(a)(4). On September 27, 2016, the FEC found that there is reason to believe ("RTB") that Committee to Help Matthew D. Erickson Build America First and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) by failing to file timely this report on or before July 28, 2016. Based on the FEC's schedules of civil money penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$1,157. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 CFR §§ 111.30-111.55. Attachment 1. The Commission's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. See <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. 11 CFR § 111.34. Your payment of \$1,157 is due within forty (40) days of the finding, or by November 6, 2016, and is based on these factors:

Sensitivity of Report: Election Sensitive  
Level of Activity: \$24,051  
Number of Days Late: Not Filed  
Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 0

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

**1. If You Choose to Challenge the RTB Finding and/or Civil Money Penalty**

If you should decide to challenge the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, you must submit a written response to the FEC's Office of Administrative Review, 999 E Street,

NW, Washington, DC 20463. Your response must include the AF# (found at the top of page 1 under your committee's identification number) and be received within forty (40) days of the Commission's RTB finding, or November 6, 2016. 11 CFR § 111.35(a). Your written response must include the reason(s) why you are challenging the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, and must include the factual basis supporting the reason(s) and supporting documentation. The FEC strongly encourages that documents be submitted in the form of affidavits or declarations. 11 CFR § 111.36(c).

The FEC will only consider challenges that are based on at least one of three grounds: (1) a factual error in the RTB finding; (2) miscalculation of the calculated civil money penalty by the FEC; or (3) your demonstrated use of best efforts to file in a timely manner when prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond your control. 11 CFR § 111.35(b). In order for a challenge to be considered on the basis of best efforts, you must have filed the required report no later than 24 hours after the end of these reasonably unforeseen circumstances. *Id.* Examples of circumstances that will be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) a failure of Commission computers or Commission-provided software despite your seeking technical assistance from Commission personnel and resources; (2) a widespread disruption of information transmissions over the Internet that is not caused by a failure of the Commission's or your computer systems or Internet service provider; and (3) severe weather or other disaster-related incident. 11 CFR § 111.35(c). Examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) negligence; (2) delays caused by vendors or contractors; (3) treasurer and staff illness, inexperience or unavailability; (4) committee computer, software, or Internet service provider failures; (5) failure to know filing dates; and (6) failure to use filing software properly. 11 CFR § 111.35(d).

The "failure to raise an argument in a timely fashion during the administrative process shall be deemed a waiver" of your right to present such argument in a petition to the U.S. District Court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 CFR § 111.38.

If you intend to be represented by counsel, please advise the Office of Administrative Review. You should provide, in writing, the name, address and telephone number of your counsel and authorize counsel to receive notifications and communications relating to this challenge and imposition of the calculated civil money penalty.

## **2. If You Choose Not to Pay the Civil Money Penalty and Not to Submit a Challenge**

If you do not pay the calculated civil money penalty and do not submit a written response, the FEC will assume that the preceding factual allegations are true and make a final determination that Committee to Help Matthew D. Erickson Build America First and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty.

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA"), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701 *et seq.* The FEC may take any and all appropriate

action authorized and required by the DCA, as amended, including transfer to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection. 11 CFR § 111.51(a)(2).

**3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty**

If you should decide to pay the calculated civil money penalty, follow the payment instructions on page 4 of this letter. Upon receipt of your payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

**NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS**

**4. Partial Payments**

If you make a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination.

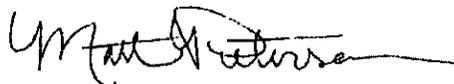
**5. Settlement Offers**

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including making a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the FEC in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(2). Unless you notify the FEC in writing that you wish the matter to be made public, it will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B) and 30109(a)(12)(A) until it is placed on the public record at the conclusion of this matter in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.42.

As noted earlier, you may obtain additional information on the FEC's administrative fine program, including the final regulations, on the FEC's website at <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, please contact Ben Holly in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130. If you have questions regarding the submission of a challenge, please contact the Office of Administrative Review at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1660) or (202) 694-1660.

On behalf of the Commission,



Matthew S. Petersen  
Chair

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**ADMINISTRATIVE FINE REMITTANCE & PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$1,157 for the 2016 Pre-Primary Report.

You may remit payment by ACH withdrawal from your bank account, or by debit or credit card through Pay.gov, the federal government's secure portal for online collections. Visit [www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml](http://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml) to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form.

This penalty may also be paid by check or money order, made payable to the Federal Election Commission. It should be sent by mail to:

Federal Election Commission  
P.O. Box 979058  
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

If you choose to send your payment by courier or overnight delivery, please send to:

U.S. Bank - Government Lockbox  
FEC #979058  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Attn: Government Lockbox, SL-MO-C2GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101

**PAYMENTS BY PERSONAL CHECK**

Personal checks will be converted into electronic funds transfers (EFTS). Your account will be electronically debited for the amount on your check, usually within 24 hours, and the debit will appear on your regular statement. We will destroy your original check and keep a copy of it. In case the EFT cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in lieu of the original check. Should the EFT not be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer twice.

**PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THE PORTION BELOW WITH YOUR PAYMENT**

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FOR: Committee to Help Matthew D. Erickson Build America First

FEC ID#: C00618553

AF#: 3141

PAYMENT DUE DATE: November 6, 2016

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$1,157



Committee to Help Matthew D. Erickson Build America First (AF 3141) filed the 2016 12 Day Pre-Primary Report after the RTB finding and disclosed no activity (previously estimated to be \$24,051), which would result in no civil money penalty (fine previously assessed to be \$1,157).

**RAD Recommendation**

- (1) Make a final determination that the political committees and their treasurers, in their official capacity, listed on the attached reports violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalties so indicated.
- (2) Make a final determination that the political committee and its treasurer, in his official capacity, listed on the attached report with no activity, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and will not be assessed a civil money penalty.
- (3) Send the appropriate letters.

2016-07-20 10:00 AM

Federal Election Commission  
 FD Circulation Report - Fine Paid  
 2016 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 07/28/2016 AUTH (MN, WI)

1/24/2017 1:05 PM

| AF#  | Committee Name           | Candidate Name | Committee ID | Treasurer  | Receipt Date | Days Late | LOA      | PV | RTB Date   | RTB Penalty | Final Money Penalty | Date Paid  | Amount Paid |
|------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|----------|----|------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|
| 3142 | LASEE FOR CONGRESS, INC. | FRANK LASEE    | C00609834    | JIM O'NEIL | 08/04/2016   | 7         | \$96,945 | 0  | 09/27/2016 | \$1,779     | \$1,779             | 11/02/2016 | \$1,779     |

Federal Election Commission  
 FD Circulation Report - Fine Not Paid  
 2016 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 07/28/2016 AUTH (MN, WI)

| AF#  | Committee Name  | Candidate Name      | Committee ID | Treasurer        | Receipt Date | Days Late  | LOA | PV | RTB Date   | RTB Penalty | Days Since RTB | FD Penalty |
|------|---|---------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------|-----|----|------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| 3141 | COMMITTEE TO HELP<br>MATTHEW D. ERICKSON<br>BUILD AMERICA FIRST | MATTHEW D. ERICKSON | C00618553    | MATTHEW ERICKSON | 10/15/2016   | Not Filled | \$0 | 0  | 09/27/2016 | \$1,157     | 119            | NONE       |

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of )  
)  
Administrative Fine Program – Final )  
Determination Recommendation for the )  
2016 12 Day Pre-Primary Report )  
(Minnesota and Wisconsin): )  
COMMITTEE TO HELP MATTHEW D. ) AF# 3141  
ERICKSON BUILD AMERICA FIRST, )  
and ERICKSON, MATTHEW as treasurer; )  
LASEE FOR CONGRESS, INC., and ) AF# 3142  
O'NEIL, JIM as treasurer; )

CERTIFICATION

I, Dayna C. Brown, Acting Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on January 26, 2017 the Commission took the following actions on the Administrative Fine Program – Final Determination Recommendation for the 2016 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Minnesota and Wisconsin) as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated January 24, 2017, on the following committees:

AF#3141 Decided by a vote of 6-0 to: (1) make a final determination that COMMITTEE TO HELP MATTHEW D. ERICKSON BUILD AMERICA FIRST, and ERICKSON, MATTHEW in his official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so indicated; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

AF#3142 Decided by a vote of 6-0 to: (1) make a final determination that LASEE FOR CONGRESS, INC., and O'NEIL, JIM in his official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so indicated; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

January 26, 2017  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dayna C. Brown  
Acting Secretary and Clerk of the  
Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

January 27, 2017

Matthew Erickson, in official capacity as Treasurer  
Committee to Help Matthew D. Erickson Build America First  
12075 Grey Cloud Trail South  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

C00618553  
AF#: 3141

Dear Mr. Erickson:

On September 27, 2016, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Committee to Help Matthew D. Erickson Build America First and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for filing late or failing to file the 2016 Pre-Primary Report. By letter dated September 28, 2016, the Commission notified you of the RTB finding and the preliminary civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage to be \$1,157 in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43.

Since that time, the amount of the civil money penalty has been changed to reflect the actual level of activity of the 2016 Pre-Primary Report. The FEC made a final determination on January 26, 2017 that Committee to Help Matthew D. Erickson Build America First and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a), assessed no civil money penalty in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.43, and voted to close the file.

The confidentiality provisions at 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. Pursuant to 11 CFR §§ 111.42(b) and 111.20(c), the file will be placed on the public record within thirty (30) days from the date of this notification.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Aimee Wechsler on our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130.

On behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven T. Walther".

Steven T. Walther  
Chair

THIS IS THE END OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE # 3141

17-00000-1-10000-1