



Federal Election Commission
Washington, DC 20463

Case Number: ADR 047

Source: MUR 5172

Case Name: American Animal Husbandry Coalition
Political Action Committee and Sharon McFarlane, Treasurer

NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT

This matter was initiated by a signed, sworn and notarized complaint filed by John P. Goodwin. Following review of the matter, and in an effort to promote compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, ("FECA") and resolve this matter, the Federal Election Commission ("Commission") entered into negotiations with Sharon McFarlane, Treasurer, representing the American Animal Husbandry Coalition Political Action Committee and Sharon McFarlane, Treasurer ("respondents"). It is understood that this agreement will have no precedential value relative to any other matters coming before the Commission.

Negotiations between the Commission and Respondents addressed all the issues raised in this matter. The parties agree to resolve the matter according to the following terms:

1. The Commission entered into this agreement as part of its responsibility for administering the FECA, and in an effort to promote compliance on the part of Respondents. The Commission's use of alternative dispute resolution procedures (ADR) is authorized in "The Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996," 5 U.S.C. § 572 and is an extension of 2 U.S.C. § 437g.
2. Respondents voluntarily enter into this agreement with the Commission.
3. Complainant alleges that respondents solicited members, and sponsored or cosponsored activities to raise funds which were not reported and/or not reported accurately to the Commission. Complainant also alleges that respondents continued to raise funds for political activities after filing a notice of termination with the Commission.
4. The FECA defines a political committee as any committee, club, association, or other group of persons which receives contributions aggregating in excess of \$1,000, or which makes expenditures aggregating in excess of \$1,000 during a calendar year for the purpose of influencing any election for Federal office. 2 U.S.C. § 431(4)(A). The term expenditure does not include the communication by a membership organization to its members, if such membership organization is not organized primarily for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election, or election, of any individual to Federal office. 2 U.S.C. § 431(9)(B). The FECA further requires that political committees file reports of receipts and disbursements with the Commission. 2 U.S.C. § 434(a).


2025-11-19 10:11:11

5. Respondents contend that they began reporting to the FEC when they thought they reached the threshold of reportable contributions and expenditures. They further assert that they continue to solicit funds, but those funds are membership dues and donations for administration of the organization. Respondents maintain that they made two contributions to federal campaigns in 2000 aggregating \$800, which they reported. They have not made any contributions to a federal election, nor do they intend to make any, since filing for termination. The stated primary purpose of the committee is to stop the further erosion of individual rights to use animals for domestic use, recreation and research. Respondents state that funds raised go to administrative costs, including the retention of lobbyists.
6. Respondents acknowledge that they wrote some of the figures for funds received on the wrong lines when filing reports with the Commission, and, in an effort to resolve the matter, agree to (a) work with Reports Analysis Division staff to amend reports as necessary to ensure they accurately reflect the activity of the committee; and, (b) take necessary steps to terminate the committee.
7. The parties agree that if Respondents fail to comply with the terms of this settlement, the Commission may undertake civil action in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to secure compliance.
8. This agreement shall become effective on the date signed by all parties and approved by the Commission. Respondents shall comply with the terms of the settlement within thirty (30) days from the effective date of this agreement.
9. This Negotiated Settlement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties on ADR 047 (MUR 5172) and effectively resolves this matter. No other statement, promise or agreement, either written or oral, made by either party, not included herein, shall be enforceable.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

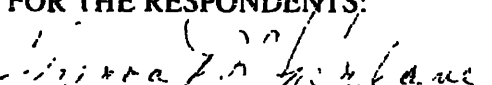
Allan D. Silberman, Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

By:


Lynn M. Fraser, Assistant Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

10/15/01
Date Signed

FOR THE RESPONDENTS:


Sharon McFarlane, Treasurer
American Animal Husbandry Coalition
Political Action Committee

8/23/01
Date Signed

051301 524 101 101