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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**SENSITIVE****MEMORANDUM**

January 26, 2024

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP*  
Staff Director

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

Krista J. Roche *KJR*  
Director, ADR Office

Joshua A. Rebollozo *JAR*  
Assistant Director, ADR Office

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Approve Negotiated Settlement  
ADR 1142 - Jon Ossoff for Senate and Steven Mele,  
Treasurer (C00718866)

RESOLUTION TERMS: Develop and certify the implementation and distribution of a policy document to be provided to the Committee's external compliance vendor detailing the Committee's procedures for identifying and remedying prohibited and excessive contributions; retain an outside consultant to review all compliance procedures and conduct a training with those responsible for preparing and filing its reports; and pay a civil penalty of \$27,000.

Attached for your review is a signed Negotiated Settlement pertaining to ADR 1142 (RAD 23L-54). The ADR Office received this referral from the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) on September 26, 2023.

**SUMMARY:** RAD referred Jon Ossoff for Senate and Steven Mele, Treasurer (Respondents or the Committee) for failing to remedy excessive, prohibited, and other impermissible 2020 general and runoff election contributions, totaling \$363,272.43, within the permissible timeframe. These contributions have now all since been remedied, although outside of the permissible timeframe.

Recommendation to Approve  
Negotiated Settlement  
ADR 1142 (RAD 23L-54)  
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During negotiations, the Committee contended it has a strong commitment to compliance with the FECA. It stated the errors at issue arose due to logistical challenges faced by its external compliance vendor and the vendor's failure to process the high volume of contributions the Committee received during the 2020 runoff election cycle. The Committee also reiterated that it refunded all contributions at issue, just not within 30 or 60 days. Further, the Committee stated it has facilitated conversations with its compliance vendor reiterating the Committee's internal policies for identifying and remedying excessive, prohibited, and other impermissible contributions.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approve the attached Negotiated Settlement of Jon Ossoff for Senate and Steven Mele, Treasurer.
2. Approve the appropriate letters.
3. Close the file on this matter.