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COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

2004 NOV -5 A 11:16

FRIENDS OF
Bennie Thompson

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October 8, 2004

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL - 7002 0510 0000 5969 4327

Mr. Larry Norton
General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR # 5608

Dear Mr. Norton:

Recently, I viewed two billboards carrying the message, "Vote for Congressman, LeSueur," with a picture of Clinton B. LeSueur, the candidate associated with Committee ID: C00394304 - LeSueur for Congress 04. These signs are located at:

- 1) Highway 82, West between Leland, MS, and Greenville, MS; and
- 2) Eureka Street and Alexander Street in Greenville, MS;

As you will find, there is no disclaimer anywhere on the signs and no indication of what person or entity has paid for the signs. A picture of one of the billboards is enclosed. As you will find, the Committee failed to include:

- 1) a clear and conspicuous "best efforts" statement;
- 2) a disclaimer.

The payment for these signs is in violation of federal law. If the payment was made by Mr. LeSueur's campaign committee or another federal political committee, the payment has been made in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("FECA"), 2 U.S.C. §441d(a). That section requires that whenever a federal candidate's campaign makes any payment "for the purposes of financing any communication through any outdoor advertising facility", the advertisement must "clearly state" that the communication has been paid for by that campaign committee. Federal Election Commission regulations further require that such a disclaimer must be "of sufficient type size to be clearly readable." 11 C.F.R. §110.11(b)(2).

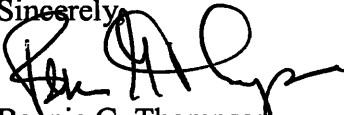
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If the payment was made by a group of people who have spent more than \$1,000 for these advertisements, then the spending was in violation of federal law unless that group has registered with the FEC as a federal political committee. 2 U.S.C. §431(4). Even if this group did register, they would also be required to include in the advertisement a clearly readable disclaimer stating that their committee paid for the advertisement, stating the address or phone number of the committee, and stating that it was not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

The Committee has clearly violated the letter and spirit of our campaign finance and election laws. I trust that a prompt and full investigation into these charges is forthcoming. If additional information is needed, please contact me.

Sincerely,

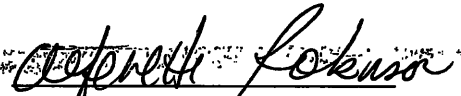



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Enclosure: Image of Billboard

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 12 day of October 2004

MISSISSIPPI STATEWIDE NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MARCH 2, 2008
BONDED THRU STEGALL NOTARY SERVICE


Notary Public



VOTE FOR
CONGRESSMAN
E. LESUEUR
NOVEMBER 2ND!
-CHARLES EVERS

W. J. EVERS

1958-09-12