



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

June 23, 2005

Michael A. Votaw, Treasurer
American College of Cardiology PAC
9111 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

Re: ADR 257 (RR 05L-20)
American College of Cardiology PAC and Michael A. Votaw, Treasurer

Dear Mr. Votaw:

The Reports Analysis Division ("RAD") of the Federal Election Commission ("FEC" or "Commission") determined that matters arising from its recent review of the 2004 12 Day Pre-General Report filed by the American College of Cardiology PAC warranted further examination for possible violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended. The Commission, thereafter, reviewed the file and voted on June 21, 2005 to assign this matter to the FEC's Alternative Dispute Resolution Office ("ADRO") for processing.

The FEC established the ADR Program to provide an informal means for resolving matters that come before the Commission and to facilitate negotiations directly with Respondents. The ADR Program provides Respondents with an opportunity to negotiate, and if necessary, mediate settlement of a matter that is mutually agreeable. The negotiations occur prior to any Commission consideration of whether there is reason to believe a violation has occurred. If negotiations and/or mediation are successful, the resulting settlement would conclude the matter.

The Commission, in referring the matter to the ADR office, determined that the case is eligible for processing in the ADR program. If Respondents decide to participate in the Program, i.e., negotiation and/or mediation, you must: 1) indicate in writing a willingness to have your case submitted to the ADR process; 2) agree to participate in the bilateral negotiations and if necessary, mediation; and 3) waive the statute of limitations while the matter is being processed under the FEC's ADR program.

The issues referred to the ADRO and the focus of our subsequent negotiations are summarized as follows:

RAD referred the American College of Cardiology PAC and Michael A. Votaw, Treasurer ("Respondents") for failing to file one (1) 48-Hour Notice for an independent

expenditure totaling \$25,250. The independent expenditure was made on October 13, 2005 and disclosed on a Schedule E to the Commission on October 22, 2004 when Respondents filed 2004 12 Day Pre-General Report. In response to a RFAI, Respondents filed the 48-Hour Notice on January 7, 2005. Respondents contend they were not aware of the 48-Hour Notice requirement because they were relying on an out-dated Campaign Guide.

If after reviewing this letter and the enclosed brochure, which describes the ADR program, Respondents would like this case selected for ADR processing, you need to affirmatively indicate that on the enclosed Commitment to Submit Matter to ADR Program form. **Failure to respond affirmatively within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of this letter will be taken as a notice of disinterest in the program and your case will be dropped from further consideration for ADR.** In that event, your case will be sent to the FEC's Office of General Counsel and the likelihood that the Committee will be audited during the next election cycle will increase.

This matter has been designated as **ADR 257**. Please refer to this number in future communication with the FEC. If you have questions about the ADR Program, please contact the ADRO at my direct dial as indicated below

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Fraser, Assistant Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office
202-694-1665

Enclosures: Brochure
Commitment to Submit Matter to ADR
Designation of Representative/Counsel