



Federal Election Commission
Washington, DC 20463

November 25, 2008

Cory Swanson
7W 6th Avenue, Suite 4M
Helena, MT 59601

Re: ADR # 444
Montana Republican State Central Committee and Shirley J. Warehime,
Treasurer

Dear Mr. Swanson:

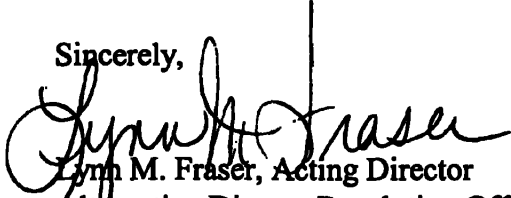
Enclosed is the signed copy of the agreement resolving the referral initiated on January 23, 2008 with the Federal Election Commission ("FEC/Commission") against Montana Republican State Central Committee and Shirley J. Warehime, Treasurer ("Respondents"). The agreement for ADR # 444 (RAD 08L-04) was approved by the Commission on November 13, 2008 – the effective date of the agreement.

Note the specific time frames for compliance in paragraph 8 of the agreement. Please forward to this office, a statement confirming Respondent's compliance with the terms listed in paragraph 5 of the aforementioned agreement. The letter should note the dates on which Respondents satisfied each of the terms listed in paragraph 5 and contain the ADR caption and case number. **The civil penalty payment should be sent to the attention of the Accounting/Finance Office of the FEC. The civil penalty under the agreement is due on December 26, 2008. Please put the ADR case number on the civil penalty check as well, to ensure crediting to the correct case.**

As you are aware, the settlement agreement will be made part of the record that is released to the public. The Commission will also place on the record copies of the complaint/referral, correspondence exchanged between your office and this office prior to our entry into settlement negotiations and reports prepared for the Commission by this office to assist in its consideration of this matter. The Commission is obliged by Federal statute to place on the public record documents in closed enforcement and alternative dispute resolution cases; accordingly, copies of documents relative to this matter will be forwarded shortly to the FEC's Public Information Office.

This agreement resolves the matter that was initiated by the Commission pursuant to information ascertained in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities regarding violations of federal election campaign laws. I appreciate your assistance in effectively resolving this matter and bringing the case to a mutually acceptable conclusion.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure: Agreement

cc: Angela Dillard, Finance and Accounting Office
Ken Pezzella, Finance and Accounting Office
Room 819



THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

Case Number: ADR 444
Source: RAD 08L-04
Case Name: Montana Republican
State Central Committee

NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT

This matter was initiated by the Federal Election Commission (Commission) pursuant to information ascertained in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. Following review of the matter, and in an effort to promote compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the FECA"), and resolve this matter, the Commission entered into negotiations with Cory Swanson, representing the Montana Republican State Central Committee and Shirley J. Warehime, in her official capacity as Treasurer (Respondents or Committee). 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 the issues raised in this referral. 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 guided by 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. The Reports Analysis Division (RAD) referred Respondents for the cumulative nature of deficiencies on reports filed with the Commission for the 2005-2006 election cycle. A committee may be referred if the cumulative nature of the reporting errors reveals the committee is not in substantial compliance with the law. 2 U.S.C. § 437(g).
4. The Committee explained that some of the reporting errors arose from software malfunctions which the Committee stated affected several reports. The Committee also stated that it had experienced an unusually large volume of federal activity during the 2005-2006 election cycle. The Committee further stated that it has resolved the software issues.

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5. Respondents, in an effort to avoid similar errors in the future, agree to: (a) implement a modified internal controls policy consistent with the Commission's April 5, 2007 guidance in this area; (b) send staff to FEC training within twelve months of the effective date of this agreement; (c) assign additional staff to review FEC reports before filed; (d) conduct external audits for the next two fiscal years; (e) certify to the Commission that the results of the 2008 & 2009 audits met professional accounting standards and verify that the audit results are consistent with the financial activity reflected in the FEC reports; and (f) implement a tracking and priority system for adequately responding to RAD's Requests for Additional Information (RAFI).
6. Respondents agree that all information provided to resolve this matter is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and that they sign this agreement under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746.
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 set forth in paragraph 5 above as follows: terms (a), (c) and (f) within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this agreement; terms (d) and (e), the internal audits and certifications for FY 2008 and 2009, shall be due by November 30, 2008 and September 30, 2009 respectively; and term (b), sending staff to a FEC training, shall be completed within twelve (12) months of effective date of this agreement.
9. This Negotiated Settlement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties on the resolution of ADR 444 (RAD 08L-04), and effectively resolves only those issues identified in paragraph 3 above. No other statement, promise or agreement, either written or oral, made by either party that is not included herein shall be enforceable.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

By: *Deborah Ruth Kant*
for Deborah Ruth Kant, Director
 Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

11-13-08
 Date Signed

FOR THE RESPONDENTS:

Cory Swanson
 Cory Swanson, representing
 Montana Republican State Central
 Committee and Shirley J. Warehime, Treasurer

11/8/08
 Date Signed