



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

June 23, 2011

Joseph R. Gruters, Treasurer
Vern Buchanan for Congress
P.O. Box 48928
Sarasota, FL 34230

Re: ADR 575 (RAD 11L-14)
Vern Buchanan for Congress and Joseph R. Gruters, Treasurer

Dear Mr. Gruters:

The Federal Election Commission (FEC or Commission) referred a compliance issue to the FEC's Alternative Dispute Resolution Office (ADR Office) for processing. The referral by the Reports Analysis Division/Audit Division (RAD) was based on a review of reports which reflect a possible failure to comply with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended.

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 Vern Buchanan for Congress and Joseph R. Gruters, Treasurer (Respondents or the Committee). The ADR Program provides Respondents with an opportunity to negotiate 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 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 ADR Program, you must: 1) indicate in writing a willingness to have your case submitted for ADR processing; 2) agree to participate in the bilateral interest based negotiations; 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 Respondents for receiving \$27,900 in contributions designated for 2010 Primary Election debt retirement when the Committee had no debts outstanding from the 2010 Primary Election. The Committee did not refund, reattribute, or redesignate the contributions within the permissible timeframe. However, according to a miscellaneous

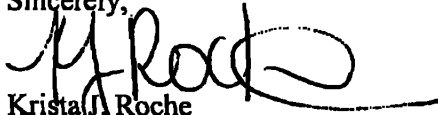
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electronic submission (Form 99) filed by the Committee on April 15, 2011, all refunds have subsequently been made.

If after reviewing this letter and the enclosed ADR Frequently Asked Questions, which describe the ADR program, Respondent(s) would like to participate in ADR processing, you need to affirmatively indicate that on the enclosed Commitment to Submit Matter to ADR 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 for further processing, and the likelihood that the Committee will be audited during the next election cycle will increase.

This matter has been designated as **ADR 575**. Please refer to this number in future correspondence with the FEC. If you have questions about the ADR Program, please contact the ADRO at my direct dial as indicated below

Sincerely,



Krista J. Roche
Assistant Director

Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

Enclosures: ADR Frequently Asked Questions
Commitment to Submit to ADR & Designation of Representative/Counsel

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