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November 23, 2010

Christopher Hughey
Acting General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

PRE-MUR # 510

Dear Mr. Hughey:

I am writing on behalf of Washington Community Action Network ("Washington CAN"), a Washington State nonprofit corporation that is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and that is a client of this law firm. In accordance with the Commission's Notice 2007-8, Policy Regarding Self-Reporting of Campaign Finance Violations (Sua Sponte Submissions), Washington CAN wishes to notify the Commission of a violation that has come to the attention of the organization.

As described in the enclosed declaration from Washington CAN's Executive Director William Pittz, Washington CAN made expenditures of less than \$10,000 to distribute by hand literature expressly advocating the election of a federal candidate within 20 days of the federal election on November 2, 2010. For a number of reasons, notably a fundamental misunderstanding of the impact of the Supreme Court's decision in the *Citizens United* case, Washington CAN failed to report these independent expenditures as required by 2 U.S.C. § 434(c).

Having identified this violation, Washington CAN is immediately putting into place more thorough board and staff training regarding legal compliance in this area and has sought qualified counsel to advise the organization in this area of law.

Washington CAN is prepared to cooperate fully in any investigation of this matter. We request that this matter be handled on an expedited basis under the Commission's policy on self-reported violations. Because Washington CAN has acted on its own initiative to bring this matter to the Commission's attention, and due to the limited scope of this violation and the steps already taken to prevent further violations, we request that the Commission consider abating or reducing the amount of any fine assessed against the organization.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter with you further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

John Pomeranz

Enclosure: Declaration of William Pittz, Executive Director, Washington CAN

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COUNSEL

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**DECLARATION WILLIAM PITTZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
WASHINGTON COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK (WASHINGTON CAN)**

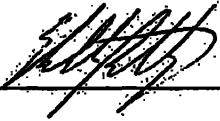
1. My name is William Pittz.
2. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of Washington State.
3. I am the executive director of Washington Community Action Network ("Washington CAN"), a position I have held since June of 2006.
4. From October 11 through the election held on November 2, 2010, Washington CAN conducted a canvass that included the distribution of literature that expressly advocated the reelection of Senator Patty Murray.
5. The literature expressly advocating for the reelection of Senator Murray that was distributed through the canvass described above was produced and paid for by the organization OneAmerica Votes and provided to Washington CAN at no cost to Washington CAN. With the permission of Washington CAN, the literature produced by OneAmerica Votes included the statement that it was "paid for" by OneAmerica Votes and Washington CAN and included the address of each organization. The literature did not include a statement that it was not authorized by any candidate or committee.
6. The total expenditures for the Washington CAN canvass through which the literature expressly advocating the reelection of Senator Murray was distributed was approximately \$8966, of which approximately \$8135 was expended between October 14 and October 31, 2010.
7. On Thursday, November 18, 2010, I became aware of a complaint filed against OneAmerica Votes with the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission ("PDC") alleging that that OneAmerica Votes had violated applicable state election law. Prompted by the questions raised about the state election activities of OneAmerica Votes, I arranged for Washington CAN to retain qualified outside counsel and instructed the staff of Washington CAN to work with that counsel to determine whether the activities and expenditures of Washington CAN related to the federal election complied with applicable federal election law.
8. Prior to the election, I recall reading more than one article in the print or online news media that suggested to me that, as a result of the Supreme Court's decision in the so-called "*Citizens United* case," that 501(c)(4) corporations were free to support or oppose candidates for office and thus such activities did not need to be reported to the Federal Election Commission.
9. Prior to the election, I did not arrange to have Washington CAN retain counsel to advise on whether the organization's electoral activities entailed any obligation to register or file reports with the Federal Election Commission.

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10. No funds used for any communication in which a candidate for federal office was clearly identified were provided to Washington CAN for the specific purpose of making the communications described herein.

11. I have instructed the Washington CAN staff and counsel to prepare the year-end Report of Independent Expenditures Made and Contributions Received (FEC Form 5) and to file this report no later than the January 31 deadline for filing.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



William Pittz, Executive Director
Washington CAN

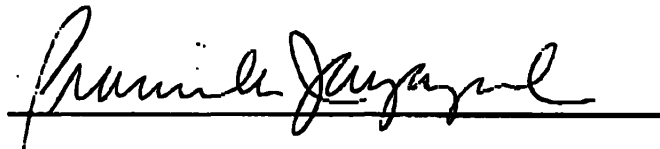
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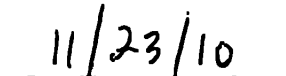
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9. Prior to the election, articles were published in the print or online news media that suggested to OneAmerica Votes staff that, as a result of the Supreme Court's decision in the so-called "*Citizens United* case," that 501(c)(4) corporations were free to support or oppose candidates for office and thus such activities did not need to be reported to the Federal Election Commission.
10. Prior to the election, I did not arrange to have OneAmerica Votes retain counsel to advise on whether the organization's electoral activities entailed any obligation to register or file reports with either the PDC or the Federal Election Commission.
11. Prompted by the questions raised about the state election activities of OneAmerica Votes, I instructed the staff of OneAmerica Votes to retain qualified outside counsel and to work with that counsel to determine whether the activities and expenditures of OneAmerica Votes related to the federal election complied with applicable federal election law.
12. No funds used for any communication in which a candidate for federal office was clearly identified were provided to OneAmerica Votes for the specific purpose of making the communications described herein.
13. I have instructed the OneAmerica Votes staff and counsel to prepare the year-end Report of Independent Expenditures Made and Contributions Received (FEC Form 5) and to file this report no later than the January 31 deadline for filing.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Pramila Jayapal, Executive Director
OneAmerica Votes



Date

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