



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

February 23, 2016

Keith D. Lowey, Treasurer
Duckworth for Congress
PO Box 59568
Schaumburg, IL 60159

Re: ADR 796 (RAD 16L-03_)
Duckworth for Congress and Keith D. Lowey, Treasurer

Dear Mr. Lowey:

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 (RAD) was based on a review of reports filed by Duckworth for Congress 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 Duckworth for Congress and Keith D. Lowey, 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 concludes 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:

SUMMARY: RAD referred Duckworth for Congress and Keith D. Lowey, Treasurer (Respondents or the Committee) for failing to remedy impermissible 2016 General Election contributions. Respondents received \$30,400 in 2016 General Election contributions from six (6) individuals and three (3) multicandidate political action

committees that were not refunded or redesignated within the permissible timeframe from the date Tammy L. Duckworth, the Candidate, announced her decision to not participate in the 2016 Primary Election.

On October 14, 2015, Respondents filed an FEC Form 99 confirming that the Committee disclosed the refund of \$30,400 in 2016 General Election contributions from six (6) individuals and three (3) multicandidate political action committees that were made outside the permissible timeframe.

If after reviewing this letter and the enclosed ADR Frequently Asked Questions, which describe the ADR program, Respondents would like to participate in ADR processing, you need to affirmatively indicate that on the enclosed Commitment to Participate in 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 796**. 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,

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