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BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In The Matter Of

MUR 5006

Robert Vinson Brannum

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COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

**RESPONSE OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE
TO THE COMPLAINT OF ROBERT VINSON BRANNUM**

This is in response to the Complaint identified as MUR 5006 filed by Robert Vinson Brannum against the television show "Hardball," its host, Chris Matthews, CNBC, and, apparently, the Republican National Committee ("RNC") for violating various provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (2 U.S.C. § 431 et seq.) as well as the pertinent Federal Election Commission ("FEC") Regulations.

Since neither Chris Matthews nor the show "Hardball" are in any way "affiliated" with the RNC as the complaint alleges, MUR 5006 should be immediately dismissed as it relates to the RNC. The RNC does not own, control, or have any influence over the operation of CNBC, "Hardball," or Chris Matthews.

For the foregoing reasons, the RNC respectfully requests that the FEC dismiss the complaint against the RNC, find no reason to believe that the RNC violated the Federal

Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, and close the file with respect to the RNC as it pertains to MUR 5006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alex N. Vogel", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Josefiak
Chief Counsel

Alexander N. Vogel
Deputy Counsel

Counsel for the Republican National
Committee and Alec Poitevint,
Treasurer

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