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March 5, 2002

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Anne A. Weissenborn, Esquire
Office of the General Counsel
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
999 E Street, NW, Room 657
Washington, DC 20463

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FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

MAR 5 4 29 PM '02

**RE: MUR 5158: HANDGUN CONTROL, INC., HANDGUN CONTROL
VOTER EDUCATION FUND & MARK INGRAM, AS TREASURER**

Dear Ms. Weissenborn:

In connection with the above-referenced matter, enclosed please find a copy of a commercial advocating the defeat of John Ashcroft in the November, 2000 general election for the U.S. Senate from Missouri. In the fall of 2000, the Handgun Control Voter Education Fund ("the Fund") paid the media consulting firm of Fenn & King Communications, Inc. ("Fenn & King") to produce and run this advertisement as an independent expenditure by the Fund in opposition to John Ashcroft's Senate candidacy.

Fenn & King inadvertently did not include in the ad the complete disclaimer required for independent expenditure communications. As you will see, the disclaimer in the commercial reads "Paid for by the Handgun Control Voter Education Fund." It does not include the language "and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee."

The Fund regrets that the referenced commercials did not include all disclaimer language required by the Commission. However, the responsibility for including such language in the commercials rests with Fenn & King, who were hired by the Fund exclusively for these independent expenditure commercials. As Fenn & King is a well-regarded firm with many years of experience working in connection with federal elections, it was entirely reasonable for the Fund to assume the final commercials would include all required disclaimer language.

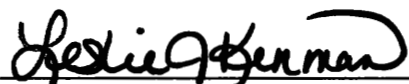
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In the past, the Commission has declined to pursue matters against federal political committees where a required disclaimer was omitted due to the fault of a third party vendor. See MURs 4145, 3739.

We respectfully request that the Commission continue this policy in the instant matter, and decline to find reason-to-believe that Respondents violated the Act in connection with the incomplete disclaimer on the referenced commercials.

Sincerely,



Leslie J. Kerman

On Behalf Of

Handgun Control, Inc., Handgun Control Voter
Education Fund and Mark Ingram, as Treasurer

Enclosure

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