



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D C 20463

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

DEC 22 2004

Kim Warkentin
Executive Director and
Seth Boffel
Communication Director
Democratic Party of Wisconsin
222 W. Washington Avenue – Suite 150
Madison, WI 53703

RE: MURs 5387 and 5446

Dear Ms. Warkentin and Mr. Boffel:

This is in reference to the complaints you filed with the Federal Election Commission on September 4, 2003 and April 26, 2004, concerning Welch for Wisconsin and John J. Hiller, as treasurer; Citizens for Welch and Richard J. Rathjen, as treasurer; Senator Robert T. Welch; Jeanne Welch; Phil Prange and Gateway Ventures; and the Republican Party of Wisconsin and Buck Shilling, as treasurer.

On December 10, 2004, the Commission found that on the basis of information provided in your complaint, responses to the complaint, and information available to the public that there was no reason to believe that Welch for Wisconsin and John J. Hiller, as treasurer; Citizens for Welch and Richard J. Rathjen, as treasurer; Senator Robert T. Welch; Jeanne Welch; and the Republican Party of Wisconsin and Buck Shilling, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 441i, a provision of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). In addition, the Commission found reason to believe that Welch for Wisconsin and John J. Hiller, as treasurer; Citizens for Welch and Richard J. Rathjen, as treasurer; and Senator Robert T. Welch violated 11 C.F.R. § 110.3(d). However, after considering the circumstances of this matter, the Commission determined to take no further action other than send a letter of admonishment against Welch for Wisconsin and John J. Hiller, as treasurer; Citizens for Welch and Richard J. Rathjen, as treasurer; and Senator Robert T. Welch. Accordingly, the Commission closed the file in this matter on December 10, 2004.

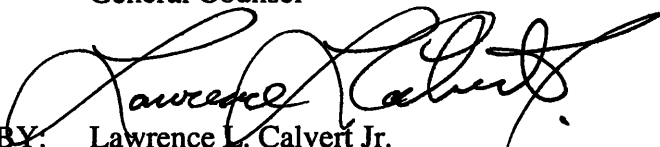
Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. *See* Statement of Policy Regarding Disclosure of Closed Enforcement and Related Files, 68 Fed. Reg. 70,426 (Dec. 18, 2003). A copy of the dispositive General Counsel's Report is enclosed for your information.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. *See* 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(8).

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen M. Guith, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Lawrence H. Norton
General Counsel


BY: Lawrence L. Calvert Jr.
Deputy Associate General Counsel
for Enforcement

Enclosure
General Counsel's Report