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Sheri L. Curran
Corporate Attorney
(563) 383-2120
(563) 327-2667 fax
Sheri.Curran@lee.net

October 20, 2006

Jeff S. Jordan, Esq.
Supervisory Attorney
Complaints Examination &
Legal Administration
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street NW
Washington DC 20463

Re: MUR 5827, 5829

Dear Mr. Jordan:

As you are aware, The Montana Standard is a Lee Enterprises newspaper. Please find the enclosed affidavit in response to the above referenced charges.

We deny that any violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act was made by the Montana Standard.

Please contact me or Karen Guest at 563-383-2506 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sheri L. Curran
Corporate Attorney

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FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

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**BEFORE
THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTERS OF MUR 5827 AND 5829

AFFIDAVIT OF JANET TAYLOR

Being first duly sworn, Janet Taylor hereby deposes and says:

1. I am an adult and competent to testify, and I make this Affidavit based upon my personal knowledge.
2. I am Publisher of *The Montana Standard* in Butte, Montana. I organized a senatorial debate between Senator Conrad Burns and Jon Tester in Butte, Montana on September 23, 2006. *The Montana Standard* is a daily newspaper that serves the Butte, Montana area. It is not owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate.
3. To help defray the cost of the debate, we approached Resodyn Corporation ("Resodyn") and Rhodia Chemical ("Rhodia"), who agreed to pay \$200 each to help pay for the costs of the facilities for the debate. *Montana Standard* was unaware of any ties between Resodyn Corporation and Senator Burns or his campaign.
4. I asked the sales representative for the two accounts to contact Resodyn and Rhodia to see if *The Montana Standard* could reserve seats for them. Resodyn asked for 54 seats and Rhodia asked for 4 seats. *The Montana Standard* was unaware that seats reserved for Resodyn and Rhodia would be given to supporters of any particular candidate, but assumed the seats would be given to employees. An equal number of the seats were provided to both candidates' party, some seats were designated for the press and the rest of the seats were open seating.

5. When informed that Resodyn had ties to the Burns Campaign, *The Montana Standard* determined that it would not accept Resodyn's or Rhodia's money. *The Montana Standard* has not received and will not accept money from Resodyn and Rhodia for defraying costs of the debate.

6. The structure of the debate itself was fair and impartial. Neither Resodyn nor Rhodia had any input into the questions asked of the candidates, the responses given, or the time allowed for response, or any other issue of debate format.

7. I understand that the Montanans for Tester has sent the Federal Election Commission a letter requesting that its complaint against *The Montana Standard* be withdrawn.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

STATE OF MONTANA)
County of DeWitt :ss

Janet Taylor, being first duly sworn upon her oath, deposes and states as follows:

That she is the affiant in the foregoing instrument; that she has read the foregoing Affidavit of Janet Taylor and knows the contents thereof, and that the facts and matters contained therein are true, accurate and complete to the best of her knowledge, information and belief.

By: Janet Taylor
Janet Taylor

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, a Notary Public, this 18 day of October, 2006.

Wilene A. Lester
Notary Public for the State of Montana

Printed Name: WILENE A. LESTER
Residing At: Butte, Montana
My Commission Expires: December 18, 2008

My Commission Expires: _____

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