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DeFazio for Congress

Fax

To: Frankie Hampton From: Adrienne
 Fax: Jeff Jordan Pages: 3
202-219-3923
 Phone: 202-694-1650 Date: 3/8/11
 Re: MUR 6446 cc:

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

• Comments:

Thank you!

MUR 6446

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CONGRESSMAN PETER DEFazio

4th District, Oregon
P.O. Box 1316
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2011 MAR -9 PM 3:03

OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

March 8, 2011

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

ATTN: Jeff Jordan
999 E St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

RE: MUR 6446

Dear Mr. Jordan:

I am writing in response to the complaint filed on December 1, 2010, by Lynnelle Kummelme. The complaint alleges Peter DeFazio violated Federal Election law by speaking at a Bay Area Rotary luncheon in Coos Bay, Oregon, on October 12, 2010. Ms. Kummelme provides no specifics and cites no language from the FECA to support her complaint. Ms. Kummelme misrepresents both Mr. DeFazio's participation in the luncheon and the motivation of the Bay Area Rotary Club, and I believe her complaint should be dismissed.

Mr. DeFazio's participation at the Rotary's luncheon was official. As chair of the subcommittee on Highways and Transit, he spoke primarily on transportation-related topics. He discussed the status of a pending six-year transportation reauthorization bill that he authored, and the impact it would have on transportation systems both nationally and locally. A local television station reported on my comments to the Rotary on October 12, 2010, and notes his focus on transportation-related issues in their news coverage (See attached A).

Mr. DeFazio has often spoken at Rotary meetings throughout his district. He has attended 43 Rotary Club gatherings including at the Bay Area Rotary in the last 10 years. His congressional office was contacted by the Bay Area Rotary to ask about his availability to address their group in early October 2010. His district scheduler confirmed his availability with them on October 8, 2010.

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Ms. Kummelchne's claim that the event was "partisan" and that the Rotary endorsed his candidacy is false. At no time did the Rotary display Mr. DeFazio's campaign signs, distribute information about my candidacy, or treat this as a campaign event. (See Attached Photos 1, 2, 3, and 4).

I also believe Ms. Kummelchne's argument is erroneous. Ms. Kummelchne's states in her complaint that the Bay Area Rotary is a 501(c)(3). However, according to a 2008 990-EZ filed by the Bay Area Rotary Club in Coos Bay, OR, is a 501(c)(6). Organizations with this tax status are eligible to host speakers of a political nature as long as that activity does not comprise its sole purpose. And there is no filing listing this Rotary as a charity on the Oregon Department of Justice database.

For the reasons I have described above, I respectfully request that the Commission dismiss this matter.

Sincerely,


Robert Ackerman
Treasurer

RA:ac
Attachments

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