



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

By First Class Mail

Cary L. Peterson
Americans Socially United
848 N. Rainbow Blvd
Suite 3419
Las Vegas, NV 89107

MAY - 8 2018

RE: MUR 6997

Dear Mr. Peterson:

On January 14, 2016, the Federal Election Commission (the "Commission") notified Americans Socially United and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). A copy of the complaint was forwarded to you at that time.

Upon review of the allegations contained in the complaint and other available information, the Commission, on April 24, 2018, found that there is reason to believe that Americans Socially United and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30102(c)(3), 30104(b)(3)(A), and 30124(b)(1), provisions of the Act. The Factual and Legal Analysis, which formed a basis for the Commission's finding, is enclosed for your information.

You may submit any factual or legal materials that you believe are relevant to the Commission's consideration of this matter. Please submit such materials to the Office of the General Counsel within 15 days of receipt of this notification. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath. In the absence of additional information, the Commission may find probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred and proceed with conciliation. *See* 52 USC § 30109(a)(4).

Please note that you have a legal obligation to preserve all documents, records and materials relating to this matter until such time as you are notified that the Commission has closed its file in this matter. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 1519.

If you are interested in pursuing pre-probable cause conciliation, you should make such a request by letter to the Office of the General Counsel. *See* 11 C.F.R. § 111.18(d). Upon receipt of the request, the Office of the General Counsel will make recommendations to the Commission either proposing an agreement in settlement of the matter or recommending declining that

MUR 6997

Page 2

pre-probable cause conciliation be pursued. The Office of the General Counsel may recommend that pre-probable cause conciliation not be entered into in order to complete its investigation of the matter. Further, the Commission will not entertain requests for pre-probable cause conciliation after briefs on probable cause have been delivered to the respondents. Requests for extensions of time are not routinely granted. Requests must be made in writing at least five days prior to the due date of the response and good cause must be demonstrated. In addition, the Office of the General Counsel ordinarily will not give extensions beyond 20 days. Pre-probable cause conciliation, extensions of time, and other enforcement procedures and options are discussed more comprehensively in the Commission's "Guidebook for Complainants and Respondents on the FEC Enforcement Process," which is available on the Commission's website at http://www.fec.gov/em/respondent_guide.pdf.

If you intend to be represented by counsel in this matter, please advise the Commission by completing the enclosed form stating the name, address, and telephone number of such counsel, and authorizing such counsel to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission.

Please be advised that, although the Commission cannot disclose information regarding an investigation to the public, it may share information on a confidential basis with other law enforcement agencies.¹

This matter will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B) and 30109(a)(12)(A) unless you notify the Commission in writing that you wish the matter to be made public. For your information, we have enclosed a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling possible violations of the Act. If you have any questions, please contact Ana Peña-Wallace, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650 or apena-wallace@fec.gov.

On behalf of the Commission,



Caroline C. Hunter
Chair

Enclosures

Factual and Legal Analysis

¹ The Commission has the statutory authority to refer knowing and willful violations of the Act to the Department of Justice for potential criminal prosecution, 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(5)(C), and to report information regarding violations of law not within its jurisdiction to appropriate law enforcement authorities. *Id.* § 30107(a)(9).

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

RESPONDENTS: Americans Socially United and MUR: 6997
and Cary Peterson in his official capacity
as treasurer

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter was generated by a Complaint filed with the Federal Election Commission (the "Commission") pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1). It concerns allegations that an unauthorized political committee — Americans Socially United and Cary Peterson in his official capacity as treasurer ("ASU" or the "Committee") — solicited and collected online contributions by fraudulently misrepresenting that it was acting on behalf of Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders and his authorized committee, Bernie 2016, Inc. ("Bernie 2016").¹ The Complainant, who unsuccessfully attempted to obtain a refund from ASU, alleges that ASU misled contributors by soliciting contributions through a website, www.voteberniesanders2016.com, and failed to collect identifying information for contributions as required by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"). The Complainant provided a copy of the website's donation page as it appeared at the time that he made his \$50 contribution.² ASU did not submit a Response to the Complaint.

As set forth below, ASU appears to have solicited and accepted contributions through various websites that fraudulently misrepresented that ASU was acting for or on behalf of Sanders. Additionally, ASU may have failed to collect contributor occupation and employer information at the time contributions were made and properly disclosed such information in its

¹ In May 2017, Peterson filed a signed memorandum referencing his "discontinuation" of involvement as committee treasurer and advisor. Misc. Report, Americans Socially United (May 31, 2017).

² Compl. at 2-4.

reports filed with the Commission. Therefore, the Commission finds reason to believe that ASU violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30102(c)(3), 30104(b)(3)(A), 30124(b)(1).

II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

A. Factual Background

ASU registered with the Commission on February 11, 2015, as an unauthorized committee.³ Cary L. Peterson is its treasurer.⁴ When ASU originally registered with the Commission, the Committee called itself “Ready for Bernie Sanders 2016.”⁵ The Committee subsequently filed three Amended Statements of Organization with the Commission designating a number of different official committee names, including “Bet on Bernie Sanders 2016,”⁶ and “Bet on Bernie 2016.”⁷ After the Reports Analysis Division (“RAD”) directed them to remove

³ Statement of Org., Ready for Bernie Sanders 2016 (Feb. 11, 2015).

⁴ Peterson is currently listed as the treasurer for nine committees registered with the Commission, as follows: Alliance Against Disabled Inmate Abuse, American Friends for Micronesia, Congressional Committee on Cuban Affairs, Congressional Committee on Eurasian Affairs, Congressional Committee on Law Enforcement and Public Safety, Congressional Task Force on Human Trafficking, Every Vote Counts Restoring America Super PAC, and Independent National Alliance Committee.

Peterson was arrested in March 2016 and charged with securities fraud and two counts of false certification in previous business dealings in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1350, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b) and 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5. *See* *Crim. Compl.* (Mar. 10, 2016) (D. N.J.); *CEO of Microcap Company Charged with Securities Fraud for Falsely Claiming Millions in Revenue from Contractors with Nigeria and Other Foreign Countries*, Dept. of Justice Press Release (Mar. 14, 2016), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/ceo-microcap-company-charged-securities-fraud-falsely-claiming-millions-revenue-contracts>. He was released on bail from a New Jersey prison in early June 2016 and, on June 16, 2016, a Statement of Organization was filed with the Commission for “Democrats Socially United,” a new super-PAC ostensibly supporting Hillary Clinton in which Peterson is listed as the committee’s designated agent and listing the same mailing and e-mail addresses as Americans Socially United. *See* Statement of Org., <http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/383/201606169018416383/201606169018416383.pdf>; Order Setting Conditions of Release (June 6, 2016), Case No. 16CR230 (AET)-01 (D. N.J.).

⁵ Statement of Org., Ready for Bernie Sanders 2016 (Feb. 11, 2015).

⁶ Amend. Statement of Org., Bet on Bernie Sanders 2016 (Apr. 30, 2015). In this Statement, ASU indicated that the Committee planned to establish a separate non-contribution account pursuant to *Carey v. FEC*, 791 F. Supp.2d 121 (D.D.C. 2011). However, ASU did not report making any independent expenditures, so whether ASU actually established such an account is unclear.

⁷ Amend. Statement of Org., Bet on Bernie 2016 (Apr. 30 2015).

1 Sanders's name from the Committee's name,⁸ the Committee filed a fourth Amended Statement
2 of Organization changing its name to "Americans Socially United."⁹

3 Since registering with the Commission, ASU has filed only one disclosure report, the
4 2015 Mid-Year Report,¹⁰ and has failed to file its 2015 Year-End Report and 2016 April, July,
5 and October Quarterly Reports.¹¹ Peterson submitted a response to RAD's Requests for
6 Additional Information ("RFAs") on October 15, 2016, stating that ASU was in the process of
7 amending its 2015 Mid-Year Report due to "financial updates," citing "technical issues with
8 [the] filing software," referencing "changes, events, and activities that may have caused delays"
9 in the report filings,¹² and blaming the past due reports on stolen records that were
10 "compromised by a third party in March 2016."¹³ In the response, Peterson asserts that ASU has
11 not been active since March 31, 2016.

12 ASU's 2015 Mid-Year Report disclosed \$90,690.32 in receipts and \$143,258.83 in
13 disbursements. The Committee did not report making contributions to Sanders 2016 or any other

⁸ Request for Additional Information, Bet on Bernie 2016 (May 19, 2015).

⁹ Amend. Statement of Org., Americans Socially United (June 18, 2015).

¹⁰ 2015 Mid-Year Report, ASU (Sept. 16, 2015).

¹¹ In fact, a review of the Commission's website reveals that ASU's treasurer has failed to file reports for any of the other committees he registered with the Commission.

¹² See RFAI for Failure to File, ASU (Mar. 15, 2016, May 3, 2016, and Aug. 2, 2016). To date, the Commission has assessed \$14,300 in civil penalties against ASU under the Administrative Fines Program for the failure to file its 2015 Year-End Report (\$7,150 penalty) and its 2016 April Quarterly Report (\$7,150 penalty).

In response to RAD's reason to believe letters sent on March 31, 2016 and June 17, 2016 for the Administrative Fines cases, Peterson contacted RAD on July 20, 2016, and explained that he was attempting to reclaim records seized by the FBI to update the reports. Peterson has yet to file any amendments to the 2015 Mid-Year Report.

¹³ See Misc. Report to FEC, ASU (Oct. 15, 2016).

political committee or running any independent expenditures (either in support of Sanders or in opposition to a Sanders opponent).¹⁴ It is unclear whether ASU spent any money in support of Sanders's candidacy.

Among the reported disbursements on the 2015 Mid-Year Report, however, were nine returned checks totaling \$2,550 for "incorrect payee name." In Miscellaneous Texts submitted with the 2015 Mid-Year Report, ASU states that "Donor check returned for [sic] item made pay to order of incorrect payee name (e.g.; 'Bernie Sanders for President', 'Bernie 2016', 'Bernie Sanders'). NOTE: Donor was provided details how to make a donation to Bernie 2016, Inc. Campaign Fund."¹⁵

The Complainant alleges that he made a contribution through one of ASU's websites, <http://voteberniesanders2016.com>, which has since been renamed <http://voteforbernie.net>, under the mistaken belief that he was visiting an "an official candidate website."¹⁶ The home page of this site features ASU's logo, which is displayed below.

¹⁴ ASU disclosed some payments for the purpose of "Media Services," but the payees do not appear to be involved in media services or the advertising industry. For instance, EMW Services, one of the vendors ASU paid for "media services," appears to be an IT services company. See 2015 Mid-Year Report at 28-30. Additionally, approximately 22% of the total amount of ASU's reported disbursements reflected a travel-related purpose.

¹⁵ See 2015 Mid-Year Report.

¹⁶ See Compl. at 1. The original website cited in the complaint, www.voteberniesanders2016.com, is no longer active. ASU appears to have changed the URL to <http://voteforbernie.net/>. It appears that ASU maintained a number of other websites in support of Bernie Sanders, including betonbernie.com and pledgesanders2016.com, but some of these sites are no longer active. ASU also maintains various social media accounts using Sanders's name, along with pictures of and quotes from Bernie Sanders. See Ready for Bernie Sanders 2016, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/readysanders2016/>; @betonbernie, TWITTER, <https://twitter.com/betonbernie>; Ready for Bernie Sanders 2016, YOUTUBE CHANNEL, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnOahuRdMHMxH4wVMxOKYg/feed>; see also Committee's Google+ and Pinterest pages available at <https://plus.google.com/+Pledgesanders2016> and <https://www.pinterest.com/enambd/ready-for-bernie-sanders-2016/>. In a description on its Facebook profile and its Google+ profile, ASU exhorts viewers to "[m]ake your contribution pledge for Senator Sanders' presidential bid today!" See Ready for Bernie Sanders 2016, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/readysanders2016/>; Ready for Bernie Sanders 2016, Google+, <https://plus.google.com/+Pledgesanders2016>.



In addition, the homepage of <http://voteforbernie.net> displays alternating photographs of Sanders with text overlays reading “BET ON BERNIE! Over 30 years experience as a member of U.S. Congress and active politician” and “MAKE A CONTRIBUTION PLEDGE Make your contribution to Americans Socially United today!” Visitors to the website could make contributions to ASU by clicking on the “Bet on Bernie” tab¹⁷ and the “Donate” tab,¹⁸ and were directed to contact ASU via e-mail at info@voteforbernie.net. Further, the website contains links to Sanders’s official Senate and campaign websites alongside links to ASU’s various online and social media sites.¹⁹ At the time that the Complainant viewed the <http://voteberniesadners2016.com> site, it included the following disclaimer:

BETONBERNIE.COM, PLEDGESANDERS2016.COM, SOCIALLYUNITED.ORG, Americans Socially United is a political action committee registered with U.S. Federal Election Commission - No. C00572537 - All rights reserved. This website was paid for by Americans Socially United (fka Ready for Bernie Sanders 2016 PAC) and is not authorized by any political candidate or party.

¹⁷ Clicking on that tab now leads visitors to a message that the site is no longer accepting contribution pledges but is still accepting direct contributions online or by phone. *See* <http://voteforbernie.net/bet-on-bernie/>.

¹⁸ At the time of the Complaint, the payment site stated “BetonBernie.com – Make a Donation Online Now Supporting Americans Socially United.” Compl. at 3. The payment page was later changed to solicit contributions for “Democrats Socially United for Hillary Clinton – President 2016.” *See* <https://simplecheckout.authorize.net/payment/CatalogPayment.aspx>. (last visited July 29, 2016). Now, the payment page states “Vote Donald Trump for Truth Next Month!” *Id.* (last visited Dec. 23, 2016).

¹⁹ *See* <http://voteforbernie.net/related-links/>.

1 In June 2015, Sanders's authorized committee, Bernie 2016, Inc. issued a cease-and-
 2 desist letter to ASU.²⁰ In pertinent part, the letter states that ASU's websites and social media
 3 pages were creating "harmful confusion for supporters" of the Sanders campaign "because they
 4 appear to be official pages" for the Sanders campaign and were "therefore intercepting donations
 5 which are likely intended for the official campaign."²¹ The letter also asserted that ASU
 6 infringed the Sanders campaign's intellectual property rights in connection with the phrase,
 7 "Bernie 2016" and the official campaign's logo, shown below.²²



8 9 **B. Legal Analysis**

10 **1. Fraudulent Misrepresentation**

11 The Act prohibits persons from fraudulently misrepresenting themselves as speaking,
 12 writing, or otherwise acting for or on behalf of any candidate or agent thereof for the purpose of
 13 soliciting contributions or donations.²³ Further, no person shall willfully and knowingly
 14 participate in or conspire to participate in any plan or scheme to engage in such behavior.²⁴

²⁰ Letter from Brad C. Deutsch, Counsel to Bernie 2016, Inc., to Cary L. Peterson (June 12, 2015), *available* at <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/2401591/cease-and-desist-letter-to-mr-cary-l-peterson.pdf>.

²¹ *Id.*

²² In ASU's response to RFAs, Peterson notes the cease-and-desist letters, and states that "the matter was cured," and ASU has not received further contact from Bernie 2016, Inc. *See* Misc. Report to FEC, Americans Socially United (Oct. 15, 2016).

²³ 52 U.S.C. § 30124(b)(1); *see also* 11 C.F.R. § 110.16(b)(1).

²⁴ 52 U.S.C. § 30124(b)(2); *see also* 11 C.F.R. § 110.16(b)(2).

1 Although the Act requires that the violator have the intent to deceive, it does not require proof of
 2 the common law fraud elements of justifiable reliance and damages.²⁵ “Even absent an express
 3 misrepresentation, a representation is fraudulent if it was reasonably calculated to deceive
 4 persons of ordinary prudence and comprehension.”²⁶

5 The record evidence supports reason to believe that ASU violated section 30124. First,
 6 ASU made statements or representations that suggest between May and December 2015,
 7 numerous contributors apparently perceived ASU as acting for or on behalf of Bernie Sanders.²⁷
 8 For example, ASU’s Facebook and Google+ profiles each included language suggesting that
 9 ASU was collecting funds for or on behalf of Sanders — for contributors to “[m]ake your
 10 contribution pledge for Senator Sanders’ presidential bid today!”²⁸ In the only report that it filed,
 11 ASU’s 2015 Mid-Year Report reflects that ASU made nine refunds between May 29, 2015, and
 12 July 17, 2015, due to “incorrect payee name (e.g.; ‘Bernie Sanders for President’, ‘Bernie 2016’,
 13 Bernie Sanders).”²⁹ Further, the Complainant specifically alleges that, as late as December 28,

²⁵ See *FEC v. Novacek*, 739 F. Supp. 2d 957, 961 (N.D. Tex. 2010) (finding that defendants knowingly and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b) (now 52 U.S.C. § 30124(b)); Disclaimers, Fraudulent Solicitation, Civil Penalties, and Personal Use of Campaign Funds, 67 Fed. Reg. 76,962, 76,969 (Dec. 13, 2002) (explanation and justification) (citing *Neder v. United States*, 527 U.S. 1, 24-25 (1999)) (distinguishing fraud in federal campaign finance abuses from common law tort action on the basis of Congress intending to penalize schemes as well as actions taken to defraud and the damaging effect of misrepresentation); Factual and Legal Analysis (“F&LA”) at 4, MUR 5472 (Jody Novacek).

²⁶ *Novacek*, 739 F. Supp. 2d at 961.

²⁷ Although reliance is a not a necessary element, it is persuasive in establishing that fraudulent misrepresentation occurred. See 67 Fed. Reg. at 76,969. The Commission has found such information persuasive. See, e.g., F&LA at 4-5, MUR 6531 (Obama-Biden 2012).

²⁸ See *supra* n. 16.

²⁹ That ASU refunded these checks or directed contributors to the Sanders authorized committee does not negate that ASU continued to engage in activities that resulted in additional contributions. *FEC v. Novacek*, 739 F. Supp. 2d at 963 (finding violation of then section-441h even when solicitor directed solicitees to authorized committee and national party committee).

1 2015, he made a contribution to ASU upon reviewing its website, which Complainant described
2 as misleading in that the website appeared to him as either an “official” Sanders website or one
3 “approved by” Sanders.³⁰ Thus, given the dates of the refunded contributions, ASU received
4 notice that contributors apparently perceived ASU as acting for or on behalf of Bernie Sanders as
5 early as May 2015, when ASU reported having refunded a check made out to the Sanders
6 campaign, and ASU had not taken material corrective action by December 2015, when the
7 Complainant claims to have been misled by ASU’s website.³¹

8 Additionally, Complainant alleges that ASU ignored his attempts to request a refund.
9 Complainant alleges that ASU did not respond to his emails requesting a refund and that the
10 phone number ASU provided was “basically an answering service that only can accept
11 money.”³² Complainant’s allegations are unrebutted, as ASU did not file a Response with the
12 Commission.

13 Next, that ASU filed only one disclosure report tends to support a finding that ASU
14 violated section 30124. ASU’s failure to file disclosure reports is in itself “probative of [a]

³⁰ Compl. at 1-2.

³¹ See *FEC v. Novacek*, 739 F. Supp. at 963 (finding violation of then-section 441h where solicitor continued to use same solicitations materials despite knowing that “solicitees were confused as to the entities calling, because they would ask for information about the RNC or the Bush-Cheney ’04 campaign, or would send checks made to those entities”).

³² Compl. at 2.

1 Committee's intent to misrepresent itself to the public,"³³ because ASU has failed to disclose
2 how it spends the contributions it receives.

3 Moreover, ASU's Mid-Year 2015 Report reflects that ASU did not make a single
4 contribution to Bernie 2016 during the covered reporting period³⁴ or any other political
5 committee, and we have identified only one \$2,900 in-kind contribution from Jewish-Latinos for
6 Bernie Bundle for "media relations" that appears to have supported Sanders's candidacy.³⁵ With
7 respect to the remaining \$140,358.83 in disbursements that ASU reported making, although ASU
8 reported numerous transactions for "communications" and "media services," it is unclear if ASU
9 used any of those funds to advance Sanders's candidacy.

10 Based on the factual record described above, ASU appears to have misrepresented that it
11 was acting for or on behalf of Sanders's official campaign for the purpose of soliciting

³³ F&LA at 9, MUR 5472 (Republican Victory 2004 Committee) (Feb. 8, 2005) (stating that "failure to file reports with the Commission indicating on what, if anything, the money raised has been spent may be probative of the Committee's intent to misrepresent itself to the public."). See also F&LA at 10, MUR 6633 (Republican Majority Campaign) (Mar. 7, 2014) ("[w]eighing against a finding of reason to believe that the Respondent violated [52 U.S.C. § 30124(b)] is the fact that [the Respondent] is registered with the Commission and complies with its reporting requirements").

³⁴ ASU's Amended Statement of Organization, filed on April 30, 2015, indicates that the Committee planned to establish a separate non-contribution account pursuant to *Carey v. FEC*, 791 F. Supp.2d 121 (D.D.C. 2011). However, ASU did not report making any independent expenditures, so whether ASU actually established such an account is unclear.

³⁵ See 2015 Mid-Year Report at 24.

contributions. Accordingly, the Commission finds reason to believe that Americans Socially United and Cary Peterson in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30124(b)(2).³⁶

2. Recordkeeping and Reporting of Contributor Information³⁷

The Act requires committee treasurers to keep an account of the identification of any person who makes a contribution or contributions aggregating more than \$200 during a calendar year, together with the date and amount of any such contribution.³⁸ In the case of an individual, “identification” means a person’s full name, mailing address, occupation and the name of his or her employer.³⁹ Committees must report such identifying information for each contributor whose contributions exceed \$200 within a calendar year.⁴⁰

The Complainant states that when he made a contribution, ASU failed to collect occupation information from him. The Complaint includes a copy of ASU’s donation page, which requests payment and billing information, but not occupation or employer information.⁴¹

³⁶ ASU also appears to use a candidate’s name in a special project, in possible violation of the Act and Commission regulations. 52 U.S.C. § 30102(e)(4); 11 C.F.R. § 102.14(a). An unauthorized committee may only include the name of a candidate in the title of a special project name or other communication if the title clearly and unambiguously shows opposition to the named candidate. 11 C.F.R. § 102.14(b)(3); *see also* Advisory Op. 1995-9 (NewtWatch PAC) (“The operation of a World Wide Web site would be considered a project of the Committee”); Advisory Op. 2015-04 at 3-4 (Collective Actions PAC) (determining that a committee’s “online activities are ‘projects’ that fall within the scope of 11 C.F.R. § 102.14”). These restrictions on the use of a candidate’s name, however, have recently been the subject of litigation. In August 2016, the D.C. Circuit ruled that the Plaintiff committee was entitled to a preliminary injunction enjoining the application of 11 C.F.R. § 102.14(a) against its website and social media pages as a possible content-based ban on speech. *Pursuing America’s Greatness v. FEC*, No. 15-5264 (D.C. Cir. Aug. 2, 2016). In light of this ongoing litigation, the Commission makes no findings as to the Respondents’ possible violation of 11 C.F.R. § 102.14(a) at this time.

³⁷ Although ASU failed to file a number of disclosure reports with the Commission, we are not making any findings concerning violations of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) because the Commission has already assessed fines for two of ASU’s unfiled reports. *See supra* n. 12.

³⁸ 52 U.S.C. § 30102(c)(3).

³⁹ 11 C.F.R. § 100.12.

⁴⁰ 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(3)(A).

⁴¹ Compl. at 3.

MUR 6997 (Americans Socially United)
Factual and Legal Analysis
Page 11 of 11

1 This printout includes a proposed donation amount of \$500, over the \$200 threshold that triggers
2 the requirement to collect occupation and employer information, but does not provide a place
3 where a contributor could provide that information. Based on the information provided by the
4 Complainant and our review of ASU's current website, <http://voteforbernie.net>, it appears that
5 ASU does not collect full identification information as required by the Act. Further, ASU did
6 not provide such identifying information for its contributions in the one disclosure report that it
7 filed with the Commission.

8 Therefore, the Commission finds reason to believe that Americans Socially United and
9 Cary Peterson in is official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30102(c)(3),
10 30104(b)(3)(A).