MAIL:
Federal Election Commission
Office of Complaints Examination
and Legal Administration
Attn: Mary Beth deBeau, Paralegal
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20436

June 9, 2017

Dear FEC General Counsel:

I, along with several other citizens, contributed an original piece of writing, for which I received no compensation, for the production of a publication called *"We Take Our Stand – Montana Writers Protecting Public Lands"*. This publication was inserted into three Montana papers in support of protecting Montana's Public Lands, and was also posted at the website wetakeourstand.org. I am informed that this group has registered as a committee with the FEC, Montana Writers for Public Lands.

I have now received a Notice from you regarding a Complaint (MUR 7250) filed against me, and all the other people who contributed to and organized this effort, claiming that by doing so we have violated the Federal Election laws, including the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I expressly DENY each and every claim made against me in the Complaint.

My involvement was limited to providing my volunteer services to this effort. I did not participate in the management or operations of the group or its efforts, and I did not willingly or knowingly intend or attempt to avoid, breach, or run afoul of FEC or any other federal or state laws, regulations or rules. By contributing, I simply was attempting to exercise my First Amendment rights to free speech and free press by speaking out for public lands, and I object to the complainant(s)' blatant attempt to intimidate me for having done so or from doing so in the future.

I respectfully request that (1) no action be taken against me in response to the Complaint (filed on May 24, 2017 by Joe Dooling, a long-time Montana political operative), and (2) the Complaint be dismissed with prejudice.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Shann Ray Ferch