

MUR # 7491

Complaint:

I, William Rodney Allen (henceforth, WRA) hereby request that the FEC investigate certain suspicious campaign contributions to U. S. Representative Mike Johnson, 4th District, Louisiana and to POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE "CONSERVATIVE LOUISIANA." The details of these suspicious contributions, made to Mike Johnson and PAC CONSERVATIVE LOUISIANA by AMERICAN ETHANE Company, LLC, are detailed in the following article published online by the Bayou Brief at <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?hl=en&tab=wm#inbox/164fdf7f80bd474f>. I Will provide a concise recap here of the contents of this article:

Rep. Mike Johnson's campaign donations report shows several donations totaling nearly \$10,000 dollars to his campaign by Robert Houghtalling, CEO of AMERICAN ETHANE, a deceptively named company considering the fact that the principal shareholders in AMERICAN ETHANE are Russian Oligarchs with known ties to Vladimir Putin. The oligarch with the controlling shares in AMERICAN ETHANE is Konstantin Nikolaev, the "handler" of accused Russian agent Maria Butina, who is currently in prison awaiting trial for her possible funneling of Russian money to the NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, which spent \$30,000,000 to elect Trump in 201-- three times the money it had previously spent to help elect any other President.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/07/22/maria-butina-paid-russian-billionaire-konstantin-nikolaev/815856002/>

The text of the Bayou Brief article on Mike Johnson's contributions to AMERICAN ETHANE is as follows:

Six Degrees of Луизиана

As Robert Mueller's investigation continues, connections to Louisiana become increasingly difficult to ignore.

By [Lamar White, Jr.](#) - August 2, 2018

2018 AUG 30 PM 2:11

OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSEL

SOURCE: SOURCE EMP

According to a comprehensive search of federal campaign

records, Houghtaling has, in past years, been a major contributor to Democratic campaigns. He made a maximum donation to Hillary Clinton's campaign for President in 2016 and had even donated to her first Senate campaign in New York in 2000. However, during the past twelve months, Houghtaling has become a prominent booster of Louisiana Republicans.

ENLARGE

HOUGHTALING, JOHN	FUND FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE	LA	GAUTHIER, MURPHY, HOUGHTALING	06/14/2018	\$5,000.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W II	BILL CASSIDY FOR US SENATE	LA	GAUTHIER HOUGHTALING & WILLIAMS	03/31/2016	\$600.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W II	BILL CASSIDY FOR US SENATE	LA	GAUTHIER HOUGHTALING & WILLIAMS	03/31/2018	\$400.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W	MENENDEZ FOR SENATE	LA	GAUTHIER HOUGHTALING, LLC	02/12/2018	\$2,700.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W II	MENENDEZ FOR SENATE	LA	GAUTHIER HOUGHTALING, LLC	02/12/2018	\$2,300.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W, MR. II	WEBER FOR CONGRESS	LA	GAUTHIER, HOUGHTALING LLP	10/28/2017	\$2,700.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W	JOHN KENNEDY FOR US	LA	SELF EMPLOYED	06/01/2017	\$1,350.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W.	SCALISE FOR CONGRESS	LA	GAUTHIER HOUGHTALING AND WILLIAMS	05/23/2017	\$2,300.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W.	SCALISE FOR CONGRESS	LA	GAUTHIER HOUGHTALING AND WILLIAMS	05/23/2017	\$2,700.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W.	SCALISE LEADERSHIP FUND	LA	GAUTHIER HOUGHTALING AND WILLIAMS	05/23/2017	\$5,000.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W	TEAM GRAHAM INC.	LA	GAUTHIER HOUGHTALING LLP	04/26/2017	\$2,300.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W	TEAM GRAHAM INC.	LA	GAUTHIER, HOUGHTALING LLP	04/26/2017	\$2,300.00	
HOUGHTALING, JOHN W	TEAM GRAHAM INC.	LA	GAUTHIER, HOUGHTALING LLP	04/26/2017	\$5,000.00	

Houghtaling's campaign contributions during the past year.

SOURCE: FEC

In addition to donations to U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy and John Neely Kennedy and to Rep. Steve Scalise, all Republicans from Louisiana, Houghtaling also contributed to the campaign and the leadership fund of

Attorney General Jeff Landry
Finance Committee

Cordially invites you to a cocktail reception
on

Thursday, April 26, 2018

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

at

4717 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

Donation \$500.00
R.S.V.P. 504.456.8600

Please remit to: Landry for Louisiana
P.O. Box 7744
Metairie, LA 70010

Paid for and authorized by Landry for Louisiana

invitation to a private luncheon for Jeff Landry, hosted by John Houghtaling II.

Update: A reader points out that American Ethane Company has made a string of other donations to Louisiana Republican officials, including Congressmen Garret Graves and Mike Johnson.

It is against federal law for a campaign to accept contributions from a foreign-owned corporation, a foreign national, or any LLC owned or controlled by foreign nationals.

(End of Bayou Brief article)

I, WRA, find this article troubling, especially in light of the myriad connections between Donald J. Trump and Russian money during and after the 2016 Presidential campaign uncovered by the press, and by the Robert Mueller Investigation of these matters.

The connection between Russian money and Mike Johnson's campaign fund is pretty obvious, as detailed in the Bayou Brief Article.

To repeat the last line from the Bayou Brief article:

"It is against federal law for a campaign to accept contributions from a foreign-owned corporation, a foreign national, or any LLC owned or controlled by foreign nationals."

I, WRA, urge the FEC to look into this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

 Aug 28, 18
William Rodney Allen

OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSEL

Official Complaint to the Federal Elections Committee

2018 AUG 30 PM 2: 10

Office of General Counsel

Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

Complaint made by:

William Rodney Allen,

Natchitoches, LA 71457

This complaint was signed and sworn to and the complainant affirmed the complaint "under penalty of perjury."

Signature of Notary and date:

Janet Roberts 8-28-18
JANet Roberts 55201

Signature of Complainant and date:

William Rodney Allen Aug 28, 18

Janet Robert 8-28-18
Notary Janet Roberts 55201