



**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463**

June 29, 2022

Charles R. Spies, Esq.
Dickinson Wright, PLLC
International Square
1825 Eye Street, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20006

cspies@dickinson-wright.com

RE: MUR 7491
American Ethane Co., LLC, *et al.*

Dear Mr. Spies:

On July 23, 2019, the Federal Election Commission found, *inter alia*, reason to believe that American Ethane Co., LLC and John Houghtaling violated 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) by making prohibited corporate contributions and authorized an investigation. On June 22, 2022, the Commission determined to enter into negotiations directed towards reaching a conciliation agreement in settlement of this matter prior to a finding of probable cause to believe.

Enclosed is a conciliation agreement that the Commission has approved in settlement of this matter. If your clients agree with the provisions of the enclosed agreement, please sign and return it, along with the civil penalty, to the Commission. In light of the fact that conciliation negotiations, prior to a finding of probable cause to believe, are limited to a maximum of 60 days, you should respond to this notification as soon as possible.

During conciliation, you may submit any factual or legal materials that you believe are relevant to the resolution of this matter. Because the Commission only enters into pre-probable cause conciliation in matters that it believes have a reasonable opportunity for settlement, we

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may proceed to the next step in the enforcement process if a mutually acceptable conciliation agreement cannot be reached within 60 days. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a), 11 C.F.R. Part 111 (Subpart A). Please note that once the Commission enters the next step in the enforcement process, it may decline to engage in further settlement discussions until after making a probable cause finding.

You may also request additional information gathered by the Commission in the course of its investigation in this matter. *See* Agency Procedure for Disclosure of Documents and Information in the Enforcement Process, 76 Fed. Reg. 34986 (June 15, 2011).

If you have any questions or suggestions for changes in the agreement, or if you wish to arrange a meeting in connection with a mutually satisfactory conciliation agreement, please contact me at (202) 694-1548.

Sincerely,



Elena Paoli
Attorney