

**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20463

April 18, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Melissa L. Laurenza, Esq.
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
2001 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
mlaurenza@akingump.com

RE: MUR 7889
SIG SAUER, Inc.

Dear Ms. Laurenza:

On April 5, 2022, the Federal Election Commission accepted the signed conciliation agreement, including a \$19,000 civil penalty, submitted on your client's behalf in settlement of a violation of 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1) a provision of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, and 11 C.F.R. § 115.2(a). Accordingly, the file has been closed in this matter as it pertains your client, SIG SAUER, Inc.

The Commission reminds you that the confidentiality provisions of 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12)(A) still apply, and that this matter is still open with respect to other respondents. The Commission will notify you when the entire file has been closed.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the fully executed conciliation agreement for your files. Please note that the civil penalty is due within 30 days of the conciliation agreement's effective date. If you have any questions, please contact Ray Wolcott, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1302 or rwolcott@fec.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark Shonkwiler

Mark Shonkwiler
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure:
Conciliation Agreement

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

| | | |
|------------------|---|----------|
| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | MUR 7889 |
| SIG SAUER, Inc. |) | |
| |) | |

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

This matter was initiated by a complaint filed with the Federal Election Commission (the “Commission”). The Commission found reason to believe that SIG SAUER, Inc. (“Respondent” or “SIG SAUER”), violated 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the “Act”), and 11 C.F.R. § 115.2(a) by making contributions while Respondent was a federal government contractor.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission and Respondent, having participated in informal methods of conciliation, prior to a finding of probable cause to believe, do hereby agree as follows:

I. The Commission has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter of this proceeding, and this Agreement has the effect of an agreement entered pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(A)(i).

II. Respondent has had a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate that no action should be taken in this matter.

III. Respondent enters voluntarily into this Agreement with the Commission.

IV. The pertinent facts in this matter are as follows:

1. Respondent is a firearms manufacturer incorporated in Delaware and based in New Hampshire. At the time relevant to this complaint, Respondent had been in continuous performance of a \$580 million federal government contract to provide service pistols to the U.S. Department of Defense.

2. On or around December 31, 2020, Respondent made a \$100,000 contribution to Gun Owners Action Fund, an independent expenditure-only political committee.

3. After being notified of the Complaint in this matter, Respondent requested and received a full refund of the \$100,000 contribution from Gun Owners Action Fund.

4. The Act and Commission regulations bar contributions to political committees by any person who enters into a contract with the United States or its departments or agencies for “furnishing any material, supplies, or equipment,” if payment on such contract “is to be made in whole or in part from funds appropriated by Congress.” 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1); 11 C.F.R. § 115.2(a). Such contributions are barred for the period between (1) the earlier of commencement of negotiations or when requests for proposal are sent out, and (2) the later of the completion of performance on or termination of negotiations for the contract. 11 C.F.R. § 115.1(b).

5. These prohibitions apply to a federal contractor who makes contributions to any political party, political committee, federal candidate, or “any person for any political purpose or use.” 11 C.F.R. § 115.2(a).

V. Respondent violated 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1) and 11 C.F.R. § 115.2(a) by making a \$100,000 contribution to Gun Owners Action Fund while Respondent was a federal contractor.

VI. Respondent will take the following actions:

1. Respondent will pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of Nineteen-Thousand dollars (\$19,000), pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(5)(A).

2. Respondent will cease and desist from violating 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1) and 11 C.F.R. § 115.2(a).

VII. The Commission, on request of anyone filing a complaint under 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1) concerning the matters at issue herein or on its own motion, may review

MUR 7889 (SIG SAUER, Inc.)
 Conciliation Agreement
 Page 3 of 3

compliance with this Agreement. If the Commission believes that this Agreement or any requirement thereof has been violated, it may institute a civil action for relief in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

VIII. This Agreement shall become effective as of the date that all parties hereto have executed the same and the Commission has approved the entire agreement.

IX. Respondents shall have no more than 30 days from the date this Agreement becomes effective to comply with and implement the requirements contained in this Agreement and to so notify the Commission.

X. This Conciliation Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties on the matters raised herein, and no other statement, promise, or agreement, either written or oral, made by either party or by agents of either party, that is not contained in this written Agreement shall be enforceable.


FOR THE COMMISSION:

Lisa J. Stevenson
 Acting General Counsel

BY: **Charles Kitcher** Digitally signed by Charles Kitcher
Date: 2022.04.18 13:21:45 -04'00'
 Charles Kitcher
 Associate General Counsel
 for Enforcement

4-18-22
 Date

FOR THE RESPONDENT:



 Melissa L. Laurenza, Esq.
 Counsel for Respondent

2/2/2022
 Date