



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
 Daniel Defense, *et al.*) MUR 8011
)
)

STATEMENT OF REASONS OF COMMISSIONER ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB

As in MUR 7889 (SIG SAUER), which concerned overlapping facts with this matter, I supported the recommendations of the Commission’s non-partisan Office of General Counsel (“OGC”) in MUR 8011 (Daniel Defense). In MUR 8011 (in contrast to MUR 7889), the Commission appropriately pursued the undisputed violation of the federal contractor contribution ban by Daniel Defense. With respect to both MURs 7889 and 8011, however, the Commission split on OGC’s recommendation that the Commission find reason to believe that Gun Owners Action Fund (“GOAF”), a super PAC, knowingly solicited unlawful contributions from federal contractors.¹

For the reasons set forth in my Updated Statement of Reasons in MUR 7889² and the thorough and well-reasoned General Counsel’s Reports,³ I voted to find reason to believe that Daniel Defense made a prohibited government contractor contribution⁴ and that GOAF and Nancy H. Watkins, in her official capacity as treasurer, knowingly solicited prohibited contributions from government contractors.⁵ I regret that the Commission could not muster the necessary four votes to investigate the latter allegations.

March 10, 2023

Ellen L. Weintraub
 Commissioner

¹ See Certification, MURs 7889 and 8011, Dec. 15, 2022.

² See Updated Stmt. of Reasons of Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub, MUR 7889 (SIG SAUER, Inc., *et al.*) (Mar. 10, 2023).

³ See First Gen. Counsel’s Rpt., MUR 7889 (SIG SAUER, Inc., *et al.*) (Nov. 16, 2021); Second Gen. Counsel’s Rpt., MURs 7889 and 8011 (Gun Owners Action Fund, *et al.*) (Nov. 28, 2022).

⁴ 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 115.2(a).

⁵ 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 115.2(c).