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February 18, 2022

Via E-MailRoy Q. Lockett, Esq.
Acting Associate General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463**Re: RR 22L-04**

Dear Mr. Lockett:

The undersigned serves as counsel to the Montana Democratic Party (“MDP”) and Lance Fourstar, in his official capacity as Treasurer. I am writing in response to the Commission’s letter of February 9, 2022, in connection with the above-referenced referral.

For the reasons set forth below, the MDP respectfully requests that the Office of General Counsel recommend that no further action be taken in this matter or, in the alternative, that this matter be referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division for further proceedings.

This matter relates to a referral from the Commission’s Reports Analysis Division and specifically relates to two issues: 1) additional activity reported by the MDP in connection with its 2020 12 Day-Pre-General Report and 2) the late refund of excessive contributions.

The omission of \$750,000 in receipts and \$750,000 in disbursements from the initial report was caused by an internal miscommunication between MDP staff and consultants as to the inclusion of a new committee bank account that was being used to make these transactions. Due to the identical errors in the amount of receipts and disbursements, there was no effect on the MDP’s cash on hand and the error was not immediately detected.

The omissions discussed above were discovered during the preparation of the MDP’s 30 Day Post-General Report. Upon discovery, in early December 2020, the MDP immediately prepared an amended report to correct these omissions. This amendment was filed within a few weeks of the initial report.

Errors related to the receipt of excessive contributions were caused solely by joint fundraising activity by the MDP. Due to a slight variance in the presentation of donor names, the existence of duplicate records for a few donors were not discovered. This inadvertent duplication was not discovered by the MDP until the issue was brought to the attention of the

committee by the FEC in April of 2021. Upon receipt of notification of this issue, the MDP promptly refunded the excessive contributions.

The MDP acknowledges that it omitted certain transactions from its original 12 Day Pre-General report and failed to timely refund certain excessive contributions received through joint fundraising in 2020. The reporting omissions were caused by a miscommunication between party staff and an outside consultant who prepares reports for the MDP. The MDP has taken steps to ensure that these errors do not happen again, including full reconciliation of all accounts before reports are filed, as well as seeking confirmation, through receipt that all filings have been received by the Commission on a timely basis. In addition, the MDP will be instituting data protocols to ensure that its database does not contain duplicate donor entries caused by the import of data from multiple sources.

Based upon the above, the Commission should either determine to take no further action in this matter, or, in the alternative, refer this matter to its Alternative Dispute Resolution Division to work with the MDP to come up with comprehensive steps to ensure future compliance.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (202) 479-1111.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil P. Reiff".

Neil P. Reiff
Counsel for the Montana Democratic Party
and Lance Fourstar in his official capacity as
Treasurer