## BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Eaton v. Fern	DISMISSAL
No. COPP 2018-CFP-031	

On July 25, 2018, Jake Eaton of Billings filed a campaign practices complaint against David Fern of Whitefish. The complaint was 1 of 21 campaign finance complaints filed by the Complainant in 2018, each alleging that a 2016 democratic candidate incumbent failed to provide the proper level of reporting in the previous 2016 election cycle. The Commissioner's office was unable to timely investigate COPP-2018-CFP-031 due to time, budget, and personnel constraints. Further, in 2021, the Montana legislature passed SB 224 which eliminated certain detail and reporting requirements of candidates, including those alleged by the Complainant in this matter. For these reasons, the Commissioner dismisses the complaint.

## **DECISION**

The Commissioner hereby dismisses the complaint.

DATED this 3 day of December 2022.

Jeffrey A. Mangan

Commissioner of Political Practices

Of the State of Montana

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