

Commissioner of Political Practices  
1205 Eighth Avenue  
Post Office Box 202401  
Helena, MT 59620-2401  
Phone: 406-444-2942  
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www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

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### Campaign Finance and Practices

### Complaint Form (10/09)

*Postmarked 12-21-12*

Type or print in ink all information on this form except for verification signature

**Person bringing complaint (Complainant):**

Complete Name KENT MADIN

Complete Mailing Address 14543 Kelly Canyon Rd  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Phone Numbers: Work 406 545-2310 Home 406 587 4932

**Person or organization against whom complaint is brought (Respondent):**

Complete Name Tom Burnett

Complete Mailing Address 443 Rain Popper Drive  
Bozeman MT 59715

Phone Numbers: Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home 406-582-0870

**Please complete the second page of this form and describe in detail the facts of the alleged violation.**

**Verification by oath or affirmation**

State of Montana, County of Gallatin

I, Kent Madin, being duly sworn, state that the information in this Complaint is complete, true, and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[Signature]  
Signature of Complainant

(SEAL) JUDITH A RAU  
Notary Public  
for the State of Montana  
Residing at:  
Bozeman, Montana  
My Commission Expires:  
October 03, 2016

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.

Judith A. Rau  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10-3-2016

December 12, 2012  
Complaint presented to the Commissioner of Political Practices  
1205 Eighth Street  
Helena, MT 59620

This complaint stems from public knowledge of campaign materials featured in the Frontline documentary "Big Sky, Big Money" which aired in October of this year. The documentary suggested that there had been inappropriate collaboration between Western Traditions Partnership and several candidates. One of the specific elements suggesting collaboration was the consistent template of so-called "wife letters" and wife questionnaires. These letters were apparently generated with considerable guidance by Western Traditions Partnership representatives who established the format and style of the letters which were produced so as to appear personal and authentic.

I was struck by how much the letter we received in the final days of the 2010 campaign for HD 63 in Bozeman Montana resembled the letter from Pam Butcher highlighted in the documentary. The letters we received were sent out as campaign materials from Tom Burnett's campaign. I was particularly struck by the fact that not only were the letters from Burnett's campaign (ostensibly written by his wife and daughters) also on pink paper and appeared handwritten but they also focused not on political issues but on the character and quality of the respective husband and included bits of personal history.

I believe that the similarity of the letters would lead any reasonable person to be suspicious that Tom Burnett was one of the candidates with whom the WTP collaborated. In fact, the circumstantial evidence is so strong that if Burnett did not collaborate with WTP, he deserves to have his name fully and officially cleared.

I have written to Tom Burnett on several occasions in the last month and asked specifically if he did collaborate with WTP and had no response.

I believe that Tom Burnett and WTP may be guilty of violating administrative rules 44.10.321 and 44.10.323 and may perhaps have violated other rules I am unfamiliar with and should be investigated. Attached are copies of Tom Burnett's "wife letter" (and also letters from his two adult daughters which came in the same envelope). The Butcher letter can be found at this website:  
<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/449198-butcher-wife-letter-0001.html>



Kent Madin  
14543 Kelly Canyon Road  
Bozeman, MT 59715

# Melani Burnett

Dear Linda,

I hope you've had the pleasure of meeting my husband, Tom Burnett, as he visits neighborhoods, campaigning for the legislature. He's been out almost every evening the past few months. I help his campaign with record keeping. I really want to see him be elected. He deserves your trust.

You probably sense that he would be the best at state budget matters and at getting Montana's economy moving. That is for sure. But what you probably don't know is what a caring individual he is, which is what I would like to share with you today.

He has always looked out for me and the kids. (We have four grown children.) Besides providing a secure living, he is helpful and kind. I especially appreciate his help around the house. It takes a

burden off me to have his help with the  
floors, dishes, and bathroom cleaning. He is  
always gentle and kind with me, and others. 2

Tom's compassion goes beyond me and  
our children and two grandchildren. He  
helps a 95-year-old friend, a World War II  
vet, with his lawn, hedge trimming, and  
hauling. He visits other elderly friends, too.  
He and I serve in a program for homeless  
families. His story telling and paper air-  
plane skills are a great hit with the kids  
in the program. He's a volunteer math  
teacher in the schools and mentors young  
men. He and I work together in Boy  
Scout leadership. Teaching young people  
morals and hard work has always been  
one of his passions.

We met on Father's Day of 1976, after  
church, and were married before the year  
ended. Tom is a good husband and  
father. Between his good head for  
budgets and business and his loving  
heart, you would find him worthy to  
serve you in the state legislature.

If you think that government could use a few more people with the desirable blend of practical good sense and concern for people, I urge you to support Tom with your vote.

Sincerely,

Melani Burnett

Dear Montana Friends,

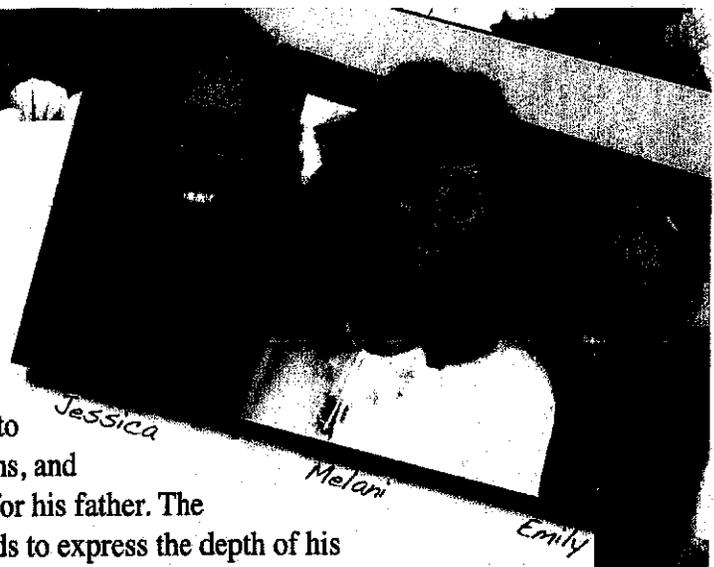
The purpose of this letter is to attest to my dad's character. When I sat down to write this letter, a quote kept coming to my mind. It's from the book, John Adams, and describes the feelings John Adams had for his father. The author states, "There were scarcely words to express the depth of his gratitude for the kindnesses his father had shown him, the admiration he felt for his father's integrity." Like Adams, my father is the "honestest man" I know. Indeed, it is my "father's honesty", [my] father's independent spirit and love of country" that are my lifelong inspiration. (McCullough, David, John Adams, p33)

My dad has become this inspiration to me because for thirty years I have heard his thoughts, seen his wisdom, and watched him mentally wrestle with debates to arrive at the truth of the matter. I have seen his peers, his family, and his superiors come to him for counsel. I have watched him work tirelessly for just causes. He is funny, spirited, generous, and honest. He loves thoughtful introspection, charity, work, logic, truth and crab cakes. Without hesitation, I give my complete support to my dad, and hope you will as well.

Thank you,

Jessie

Jessica (Burnett) Steed



My Bozeman Friends,

Because all levels of government need honorable and humble public servants I was thrilled when my dad announced his candidacy for State Representative. I am now honored to be writing this letter of endorsement for my incredible father, Tom Burnett. My dad is as a rare balance of reason, heart and integrity. He's been a counselor and friend, teacher and observer, champion and constant supporter. Dad sees the good in me and lets me be the one to recognize room for improvement. I push myself in my life because of his example of self-discipline and an endless thirst for knowledge.

Nightly family dinners growing up included geography, math, current event, and history quizzes. He included me and my siblings in all aspects of his life: work, recreation, church and community service, music, and life-long education. Then and now he shows me what it means to be a great human being.

His remarkable reach has extended far beyond the circle of our family and has included struggling students, homeless travelers, and lonely seniors. His honest intention in all areas is simply to do good. He serves and lives humbly and with optimism, reason, and energy. These traits of persistence, selflessness, a commitment to freedom, faith and family will continue to translate into honorable and selfless public service. It is the same traits he has unfailingly exemplified as a family man that make him not only a good candidate, but the best candidate for State Representative.

Thank you,



Emily Burnett

P.S. A vote for my dad is a vote for time-tested values of family, integrity and selflessness. Please join our family in supporting him November 2.

*Please see my sister's letter on the other side.*

