

COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

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October 17, 2012

Philip A. Olson
P. O. Box 545
Manhattan, MT 59741

Re: Olson v. Bullock Complaint

Dear Mr. Olson:

You recently filed a complaint with this office that alleged the Friends of Bullock campaign violated Montana Code Annotated § 13-37-229 by concealing the true identity of a contributor. Commissioner Murray recused himself and I was appointed deputy commissioner to resolve your complaint.

You alleged the Friends of Bullock Campaign received an April 13, 2012, contribution from Rent-A-Center, Good Government Political Action Committee, but modified the name of the contributor to "RAC Good Government Committee" on its campaign finance report in an attempt to hide the contributor's true identity.

The Friends of Bullock campaign responded with a copy of the contribution check at issue. The contribution check demonstrates the Friends of Bullock Campaign reported the identity of the contributor substantially as it appeared on the April 13, 2012, contribution check – "RAC – Good Government Political Action Committee." The Friends of Bullock Campaign also noted that in its May 2012 C-5 report, funds from both the April 13, 2012, contribution from "RAC – Good Government Political Action Committee" and the 2011 contribution from "Rent-A-Center" Political Action Committee were disclosed as total contributions received from one entity. The C-5 report does disclose the aggregate amount of both checks as contributions from "RAC Good Government Committee" at the same address.

Therefore, based on the information presented to me, I find no violation of Montana Code Annotated § 13-37-229 and your complaint is dismissed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Dufrechou".

Jay Dufrechou
Deputy Commissioner