

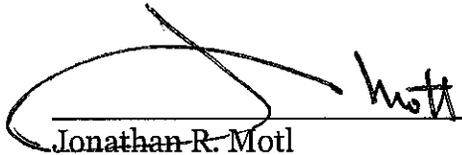
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This settlement agreement is entered into by Jonathan R. Motl, in his official capacity as the current Montana Commissioner of Political Practices (hereinafter “the Commissioner”) and the following party: Alan Hale (hereinafter “the Respondent”).

Montana law authorizes the Commissioner to file an action in district court in order to seek a civil penalty for violation of Montana’s campaign finance and practices laws and rules, §§13-37-124 and 13-37-128 Mont. Code Ann. In order to avoid litigation, the Commissioner and the Respondent enter into this agreement to resolve this matter.

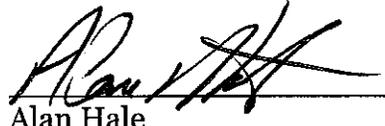
1. The Commissioner acknowledges that Mr. Taylor (hereinafter “the Complainant”) filed a Campaign Finance and Practices Complaint against the Respondent for violation of Montana’s campaign finance and practices laws on October 3, 2012.
2. On June 26, 2013 the Commissioner issued a Summary of Facts, Statement of Finding of Sufficient Evidence to Show a Violation of Title 13, Chapters 35 or 27, the Commissioner’s cause number COPP-2012-CFP-0028 (hereinafter “Decision”). The Decision determined that the Respondent failed to comply with certain campaign finance and practices laws and administrative regulations.
3. The Respondent acknowledges that he has read and understands the Commissioner’s decision issued in the above referenced cause.
4. In the Decision the Respondent was given an opportunity to file an amended report correcting the disclosure error of the expense that was incurred on October 1, 2012, and should have been included on his pre-general election campaign finance report due on October 25, 2012. The Respondent did file an amended report on July 18, 2013, and the Commissioner has taken the late disclosure in to consideration of the Respondent’s civil penalty for this violation.
5. The Respondent acknowledges the findings of fact contained in the decision and admits that the failure to timely disclose the expenditure for his write-in campaign postcards was a violation of §§13-37-228, 230, and 231 Mont. Code Ann.
6. The Respondent acknowledges the findings of fact contained in the decision and admits the failure to include the required attribution on his write-in campaign postcard to voters in violation of § 13-35-225(1) Mont. Code Ann.

7. The Commissioner and the Respondent agree that execution of this settlement agreement by both parties and the payment of a civil fine in the amount of \$250.00 by the Respondent, fully and finally resolves all of the issues as set forth in the COPP-2012-CFP-0028 decision.
8. Simultaneously with the return of the executed settlement agreement the Respondent will remit to the Commissioner \$250.00, on a check made out to: "Commissioner of Political Practices" and mailed to the Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices, 1205 8th Avenue, P.O. Box 202401, Helena, Montana, 59620.
9. In consideration of payment of the civil fine referenced above, the Commissioner agrees not to pursue any further administrative or court proceedings against the Respondent or other persons that may be named or unnamed in the June 26, 2013 decision, based on the matters discussed in the decision.
10. The Respondent enters into this agreement to avoid litigation and to resolve and settle this dispute with the Commissioner. It is understood and agreed that the payment of the civil fine referenced above, and execution of this settlement agreement by the Respondent is accepted as the sole consideration for full satisfaction and compromise of what may be disputed claims.
11. The Commissioner and the Respondent fully and forever release and discharge each other and their respective officials, officers, members, employees, successors, assigns, agents, ostensible agents, attorneys, and representatives from any and all actions, claims, causes of action, demands, expenses, damages or injuries, whether asserted or unasserted, known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, arising out of the matters investigated by the Commissioner and summarized in the COPP-2012-CFP-0028 decision.
12. The Commissioner and the Respondent agree that the executed Settlement Agreement is a public document and will be made available to members of the public.
13. This settlement agreement, consisting of 3 pages, sets forth the entire agreement that has been reached between the Commissioner and the Respondent. No modification or amendment of this agreement will be effective unless both parties complete a subsequent written statement that is signed by both parties.



Jonathan R. Motl
Commissioner of Political Practices

1-15-14
Dated



Alan Hale

1-15-14
Dated