

July 12, 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL
Return Receipt Requested

Chris Wilcox
921 Euclid Avenue
Helena MT 59601

Subject: Dismissal of complaint against Governor Brian Schweitzer

The allegations and supporting information you submitted were analyzed, together with information provided by Governor Schweitzer and his attorney. Based on that review and a review and analysis of the applicable law, I am dismissing the complaint.

The allegation that Governor Schweitzer accepted a corporate in-kind contribution to his re-election campaign when he traveled at the expense of the Democratic Governor's Association (DGA) is without merit. Although the Governor is an announced candidate for reelection, under the circumstances of this case there is no basis to conclude that the payment for his travel to a DGA function amounts to a payment "to influence an election" as required by 13-1-101(7), MCA.

The activity was quite far removed, both in time and place, from the 2008 Montana election. Moreover, records indicate that the Governor is the DGA finance chairman and was a featured speaker at the DGA event; thus there appears to be a legitimate basis for the DGA to pay for his travel.

Finally, no evidence has been presented or disclosed that would tend to establish that the Governor accepted an illegal corporate contribution to his re-election campaign.



Dennis Unsworth
Commissioner of Political Practices

Copy: Governor Brian Schweitzer