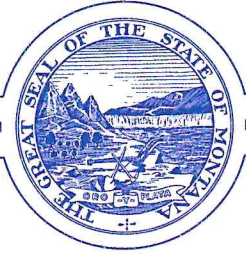


COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

CHRIS J. GALLUS  
COMMISSIONER  
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PO BOX 202401  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2401  
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April 28, 2023

Patricia A. Earnest  
519 Charlos St. Apt. 7  
Stevensville, MT 59870

Subject: Complaint received April 28, 2023; Earnest v. Mullan, COPP-2023-CFP-005

Patricia,

I hope you are well. This letter acknowledges the receipt of your formal attribution complaint, received by this Office via U.S. Mail on April 28, 2023.

The complaint alleges violation of Montana's 'paid for by' attribution requirements, and I have determined that it conforms to the basic requirements of 44.11.106 ARM. My review indicates you have met these requirements. Consequently, a letter and copy of the complaint is being sent to the respondent listed above. This office will now contact the respondent listed above and work with them to remedy unattributed material, in the manner provided for under Mont. Code Ann. §13-35-225(5) and (6).

If an investigation is conducted, a summary of facts and statement of findings will be prepared and a copy will be sent to you, but attribution complaints are typically resolved pursuant to the code cited above. The level of cooperation the respondent wishes to provide generally forms the basis as to whether the matter is going to be pursued further, which then involves referring the matter to the local county attorney if the sufficiency finding supports determination of a violation of law. Any candidate, political committee, or joint fundraising committee who fails to bring unattributed material into compliance as required is subject to a civil penalty pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §13-37-128.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris J. Gallus".

Chris J. Gallus  
Commissioner of Political Practices