

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES (COPP)**

<b>In re:</b> <b>The matter of the MONTANA REPUBLICAN PARTY</b>  <b>v.</b>  <b>BEN ALKE (ATTORNEY GENERAL CANDIDATE)</b>	<b>COPP-2023-CFP-018</b>  <b>ORDER OF DISMISSAL</b>
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**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On October 12, 2023, the Montana Republican Party (MTGOP) filed a campaign practices complaint against candidate for Attorney General of Montana, Ben Alke. The complaint met the requirements of Admin. R. Mont. (ARM) 44.11.106 and alleged violations of statutes which fall under my jurisdiction as Commissioner of Political Practices. Therefore, I accepted it as filed and requested a response from Mr. Alke. Mr. Alke timely filed a response and COPP subsequently conducted an investigation in accordance with Mont. Code Ann. (MCA) § 13-37-111.

In this matter, the Commissioner dismissed several allegations but determined sufficient evidence existed to supported other violations. Ultimately, in accordance with the authority provided by MCA § 13-37-124, the Commissioner determined some matters which had been addressed by the campaign were not justified for prosecution and any outstanding issues were best resolved by corrective action. Consequently, on August 28, 2024, the Commissioner issued a Partial Dismissal and an Order of Corrective Action.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION**

The August 28, 2024, decision in this matter required the Alke campaign to amend their January 5, 2024, C-5 finance report to include additional details regarding all travel expenses, specifically the events, dates, and purpose of travel reported therein. The Alke campaign was provided five days to take the required actions. Following issuance of this decision, the Alke campaign contacted COPP and requested an extension of time to file the required amendments. This extension was provided and on September 16, 2024, the Alke campaign notified COPP that

the January 5, 2024, C-5 finance report had been amended as specified in the Commissioner's decision. These changes were subsequently confirmed by COPP staff.

### CONCLUSION

The Commissioner has determined that all corrective action has been satisfactorily completed by the Alke campaign. Consequently, the above-named matter is fully resolved, and all allegations are fully dismissed.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025,



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Chris J. Gallus  
Commissioner of Political Practices  
State of Montana