

COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

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April 18, 2023

Brandon Hurst
216 Stillwater Ln.
Billings, MT 59105

Delivered via email to: bhurst@meadowlarkco.com

Subject: Complaint received April 17, 2023; *Kary v. Hurst*,
COPP-2023-CFP-002B

The enclosed complaint alleges a violation of Montana's campaign reporting and disclosure laws. The complaint is accepted as conforming to the requirements of 44.11.106 ARM, the administrative rule regarding campaign complaints.

Upon review, I have determined that the allegation that certain material failed to include the 'paid for by' attribution message is merited, as the specific election communication mentioned in this complaint does not include required attribution, Mont. Code Ann. §13-35-225(1). You will need to add full attribution messaging to all copies of this communication remaining in your possession and email a photo to the COPP showing this addition- distribution of any unattributed copies of the communication must be halted until the full 'paid for by' attribution message is added. For any copies of this communication that have already been publicly distributed without inclusion of the full attribution message, COPP would require you provide a written statement that includes a picture of the communication, the full 'paid for by' attribution message required under Mont. Code Ann. §13-35-225(1), the quantity of unattributed communications distributed, and the date or dates unattributed copies of the communication were distributed.

This attribution remedy needs to be provided to COPP no later than 8:00 AM Thursday, April 20, 2023 (within 2 business days), as provided for under Mont. Code Ann. 13-35-225(6)(a)(i). Failure to bring "material into compliance as required...is subject to a civil penalty pursuant to 13-37-218, MCA", 13-35-225(6)(b), Mont. Code Ann. Any response you provide is a public record that COPP posts on our website, per Mont. Code Ann. §13-37-132.

If you did not engage in the activity relating to this complaint, I would appreciate having any additional information you can provide as to potential parties involved. It is in everyone's best interest to immediately resolve the situation in the manner described above, and COPP will work with you, or other parties, to get this accomplished.

Thank you for your immediate attention and consideration of this urgent matter.

Regards,



Chris J. Gallus
Commissioner of Political Practices