

Cook, Scott

From: Aaron Murphy <aaron@busseformontana.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 1:32 PM
To: Cook, Scott
Cc: Gallus, Chris J.; Hendricksen-Scott, Shelley; Holly Giarraputo; Emily Harris
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: New Complaints Received by Montana COPP- Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v Busse and Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v Graybill/Busse for Montana Campaign

Commissioner Gallus:

On review of the GOP/Gianforte's complaint regarding comments made on August 21, 2024, regarding polling, you should additionally dismiss this complaint as frivolous on its face under ARM 44.11.106(4). There was no coordinated or otherwise unreported expenditure, as described in our campaign's response earlier today. But even if there had been, at the time of the GOP's complaint, there **could not** have been a failure to report at the time the GOP filed its complaint. The reporting period covering 8/21/2024 closed yesterday, **after** the complaint alleging a failure to report was filed. The GOP knew there was no violation at the time it filed, but did so anyway. For this additional reason, the complaint is frivolous on its face and should be dismissed.

Aaron Murphy

On Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 10:35 AM Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov> wrote:

Aaron,

Thank you for sending that- as the Commissioner had indicated, COPP can confirm receipt of the provided response relevant to each matter. Pursuant to MCA 13-37-132 I have posted it on COPP's agency website.

Scott Cook

Compliance Specialist 3/Public Records Officer

Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices

(406) 444-4627

SCook3@mt.gov

From: Gallus, Chris J. <Christopher.Gallus@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 10:03 AM
To: Aaron Murphy <aaron@busseformontana.com>; Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov>; Hendricksen-Scott, Shelley <Shelley.Hendricksen-Scott@mt.gov>
Cc: Holly Giarraputo <holly@campaigncompliance.net>; Emily Harris <emily@busseformontana.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: New Complaints Received by Montana COPP- Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v Busse and Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v Graybill/Busse for Montana Campaign

Good morning, Aaron. I received this. Scott will review it, discuss matters with Shelley Hendricksen-Scott and I will make an initial decision as to this matter.

Thanks,

Chris

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From: Aaron Murphy <aaron@busseformontana.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 9:37:17 AM
To: Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov>; Gallus, Chris J. <Christopher.Gallus@mt.gov>; Hendricksen-Scott, Shelley <Shelley.Hendricksen-Scott@mt.gov>
Cc: Holly Giarraputo <holly@campaigncompliance.net>; Emily Harris <emily@busseformontana.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: New Complaints Received by Montana COPP- Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v Busse and Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v Graybill/Busse for Montana Campaign

Commissioner Gallus, Mr. Cook, and Ms. Hendricksen-Scott:

Attached is Busse for Montana's response to the Complaints (COPP-2024-CFP-034 and COPP-2024-CFP-036) you sent last week via Ms. Giarraputo. Will you please confirm receipt of this response? And please don't hesitate to email me directly with any questions. I've also CC'd Deputy Manager Emily Harris.

Best,

Aaron Murphy

Manager, Busse for Montana

From: "Cook, Scott" <SCook3@mt.gov>

Date: September 9, 2024 at 4:06:05 PM MDT

To: holly@campaigncompliance.net

Cc: "Gallus, Chris J." <Christopher.Gallus@mt.gov>, "Hendricksen-Scott, Shelley" <Shelley.Hendricksen-Scott@mt.gov>

Subject: New Complaints Received by Montana COPP- Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v Busse and Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v Graybill/Busse for Montana Campaign

Holly,

Please see the attached copies of *Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v. Busse*, COPP-2024-CFP-034 and *Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v. Graybill/Busse for Montana Campaign*, COPP-2024-CFP-036, formal Campaign Finance and Practices (CFP) Complaints submitted to COPP and initially accepted by Montana's Commissioner of Political Practices Chris Gallus. Please also see the attached letters from Commissioner Gallus explaining this initial acceptance of each matter and the complaint process at large, and also requesting a written response to the allegations presented in the submitted complaint be provided. Each Complaint will be publicly posted on COPP's agency website tomorrow morning (September 10, 2024).

As stated in the letter, if you have questions about the formal Complaint process, or require a short extension for providing the requested written response, please contact either myself (scook3@mt.gov, (406) 444-4627) or the Commissioner directly (christopher.gallus@mt.gov, (406) 465-4353). While each Complaint was submitted individually and has therefore been processed and numbered individually, COPP may ultimately investigate and decide them together. Mr. Busse, the Busse for Montana campaign, and Mr. Graybill may, if they desire, provide a single written response addressing both Complaints.

Scott Cook

Compliance Specialist 3/Public Records Officer

Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices

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