

Cook, Scott

From: Abbey Cook <abbey@abbeyleecook.com>
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 4:46 PM
To: Gallus, Chris J.; Cook, Scott
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ALKE RESPONSE
Attachments: ALKE RESPONSE.pdf

Hi all,

Please find the attached response from the Alke campaign re: 10/13/2023 filed complaint by Executive Director of the Republican Party, Danielle Tribble.

Please let me know if you need anything else or if there are any other items we can provide for you.

All my best,

Abbey

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Abbey Lee Cook
Abbey Lee Cook & Associates
406-599-4691

TO: Commissioner of Political Practices Chris Gallus
FROM: Alke for Attorney General
RE: 10/13 COPP Complaint, Montana Republican Party v. Alke
DATE: 10/24/2023

Commissioner Gallus,

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the claims of Danielle Tribble, the Executive Director of the Montana Republican Party, outlined in a complaint filed with your office on 10/13/2023.

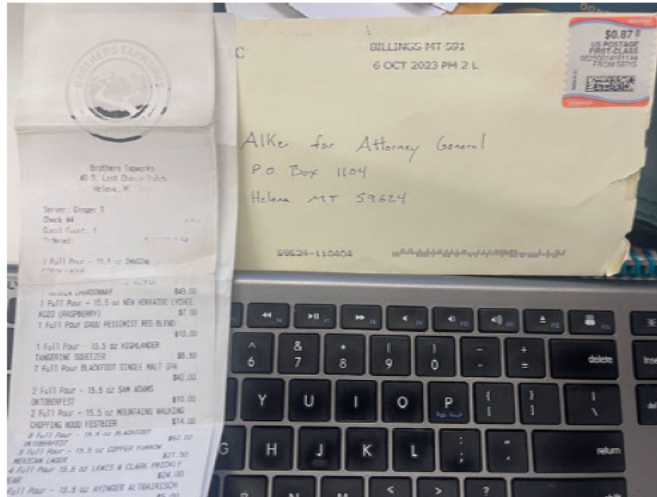
Ms. Tribble cites the following specifics:

1. 13-37-225- Helena Event Expenses. By failing to report the expenses associated with his 9/27/2023 Helena event, Mr. Alke has violated this section.
2. 13-37-225 Helena Travel Expenses. By failing to report the travel expenses associated with his 9/27/2023 trip from Bozeman to Helena, Mr. Alke has violated this section.
3. 13-37-225 - Bozeman Event Expenses. By failing to report the expenses associated with his 9/28/2023 Bozeman fundraising event, Mr. Alke has violated this section.
4. 13-37-225 - Video Production Expenses. By failing to report the expenses associated with filming and producing his campaign launch video, Mr. Alke has violated this section.
5. 13-37-231- By committing the aforementioned violations, Mr. Alke has violated this section.

You will find our responses and evidence below:

1. Helena Event Expenses. Mr. Alke, the candidate, paid for the event expenses associated with this event directly. As you can see in the image below, the receipts were provided with a request to be reimbursed by the campaign postmarked on 10/6. This would fall into the subsequent reporting period

covering 10/01/2023-12/31/2023.



2. Helena Travel Expenses. Mr. Alke regularly comes to Helena to visit family and friends, as he grew up here. Mr. Alke covered his own expenses as a part of visiting his family. However, in the spirit of the utmost transparency, Mr. Alke will amend his previous report to include his gas receipts. Mr. Alke looks forward to working with the Commissioner and providing any additional required information on his travel or gas expenditure for his trip to Helena. Lastly, the travel expense that could be associated with the event was not incurred until Mr. Alke needed to fill up with gas while traveling on 10/2 which does fall into the reporting period covering 10/01/2023-12/31/2023 and the campaign looks forward to guidance from the commissioner on his preference for which period he would prefer the 10/2 expense to be reported under.



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CREDIT CARD [REDACTED]

\$58.35
Sale

Oct 2, 2023
Transaction date

Oct 3, 2023
Posted date

EXXON BUTTE 2 #1113
BUTTE, MT 00059701

Description	EXXON BUTTE 2 #1113
Also known as	Exxon
Merchant type	Automated fuel dispensers
Method	In person
Card number	(...5577)
Category	Gas

Rewards earned with this transaction	
+ 1% (1 Pt)/\$1 earned on all purchases	58
Total Ultimate Rewards® points	58

Transaction details may be preliminary or incomplete and may not match the transaction as it appears on your periodic statement, which is the official record of your account activity.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. Member FDIC
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3. Bozeman Event Expense. Mr. Alke did attend a fundraising event on 9/28 in Bozeman. The event hosts provided their information for event expense reimbursement on 10/19/2023. Please see a copy of the request and subsequent response below;

From: Stacey Larson <slarson@gpetzlawfirm.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2023 9:40 AM
To: Ben Alke <balke@crislaw.com>
Subject: Fundraiser

Maven's - \$451
Beer & Wine - \$136.62

Does this work or do you need more detail?

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4. Video Production Expenses. Expenses associated with the video production were released after satisfactory delivery of the product. This moves the expense into the 10/01/2023-12/31/2023 disclosure period. Attached you will find a screenshot of the outgoing wire for the total amount associated with the video production on 10/17/2023, well within standard 30 day invoicing terms.

Mr. Alke is committed to upholding the utmost transparency and looks forward to working with the Commissioner and the office on any outstanding needs or necessary clarification regarding the 7/25/2023-09/30/2023 disclosure period and in matters in the future.