

Cook, Scott

From: Kim Abbott <kim.k.abbott@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 4:07 PM
To: Gallus, Chris J.
Cc: Cook, Scott; Hendricksen-Scott, Shelley
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: New Complaint Received by COPP- Leas v. Abbott, COPP-2023-CFP-026

Commissioner Gallus,

Please consider this my official response to Mr. Leas' complaint. In looking into preparing my response, it appears that I failed to check the "closing report" box on the periodic report my campaign filed on 11/28/2022. I regret the administrative error, however my campaign behaved as though my committee was closed. All contributions and expenditures were accurately recorded and are reflected in the 11/28/2022 report. The only activity on the account since 11/28/2022 was the reissuing and depositing of a check from Act Blue that had been misplaced and the disposal of excess funds in accordance with Montana law. I have amended the 11/28/2022 report to reflect that it is a closing report. I don't believe that the public was deprived of critical campaign finance information due to this administrative error as all of my campaign contributions and expenditures were accurately reported in my campaign's last report - despite the fact that it was erroneously categorized as a periodic report. I am sorry to have cost your agency staff time and energy on this, but I do understand that is the nature of a complaint-based enforcement system.

I will drop by a copy of the disposal of funds form in person.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Kim

On Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 3:29 PM Gallus, Chris J. <Christopher.Gallus@mt.gov> wrote:
Perfect. Enjoy the rest of your day and the weekend. I hope to see you soon.

Chris

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From: Kim Abbott <kim.k.abbott@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 4:27:46 PM
To: Gallus, Chris J. <Christopher.Gallus@mt.gov>
Cc: Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov>; Hendricksen-Scott, Shelley <Shelley.Hendricksen-Scott@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: New Complaint Received by COPP- Leas v. Abbott, COPP-2023-CFP-026

Thanks, Chris.

My closing report in November was accurate on contributions and expenditures. I needed act blue to reissue a check that got misplaced and didn't get deposited. They reissued and I've distributed excess funds. I'll send all that documentation your way.

Take care,
Kim

On Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 4:23 PM Gallus, Chris J. <Christopher.Gallus@mt.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Rep. Abbott. I know in previous conversations you mentioned you were waiting for information pertaining to actual contributions received by your campaign. If you have the information now and can include it in your response, that would be helpful to me.

I hope you are well.

Chris

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From: Kim Abbott <kim.k.abbott@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 4:10:11 PM

To: Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov>

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: New Complaint Received by COPP- Leas v. Abbott, COPP-2023-CFP-026

Got it. Thanks.

On Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 4:04 PM Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov> wrote:

Rep. Abbott,

Please see the attached copy of *Leas v. Abbott*, COPP-2023-CFP-026, a formal Campaign Finance and Practices (CFP) Complaint recently received by COPP and accepted for initial review by Commissioner Gallus. A letter from Commissioner Gallus outlining the formal Complaint process and requesting you provide a written response to the specific allegations presented in the Complaint is also attached. Hard copies of these documents may be sent via U.S. Mail upon request as well. The complaint will be publicly posted to COPP's website tomorrow (December 8, 2023). Please feel free to contact either myself or Commissioner Gallus with questions about COPP's formal Complaint process. Thank you.

Scott Cook

Compliance Specialist 3/Public Records Officer

Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices

(406) 444-4627

SCook3@mt.gov

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