

## Cook, Scott

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**From:** Vincent <backen4senate@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 5:08 PM  
**To:** Cook, Scott  
**Cc:** Tonime@hotmail.com; George.Backen@gmail.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Response to Allegations by Gunderson  
**Attachments:** Screenshot 2026-05-18 at 4.33.51 PM.png; Screenshot 2026-05-18 at 4.34.24 PM.png; image (1).png

Hello Scott,

Please find my explanations for the alleged violations below:

Violation #1 - The 18 x 24 signs appearing around the district were paid for by my personal money and I had never planned to be reimbursed by the campaign.

Violation #2 - Same as the explanation above. See attached receipts for the dates and amounts of all signage orders made. I'm happy to provide more detailed receipts for these purchases if required.

Violation #3 - On the listening tour, I paid for 2 slices of pizza valued at \$4 per slice & no beverages.

2nd of the Third Violations - I again, personally paid for two orders of buttons (see attachment for receipts) and have never intended to be paid back from the campaign. I was under the impression that small buttons did not require a disclaimer.

Violation #4 - Yes, the filing was 3 days late and I apologize for this oversight.

Violation #5 - Because I haven't used money from the campaign and instead used my own personal funds, I did not include it in the monthly report filing. If requested to do so, I'm happy to amend the previous reports to show any necessary recommendations.

Any error or omission was done innocently and without notifying the campaign treasurer of my purchases. If this was not correct, please advise and I'm happy to make amends.

Vincent Backen  
Candidate for Senate District 1, Montana  
406-200-3193

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**From:** Cook, Scott <[SCook3@mt.gov](mailto:SCook3@mt.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 3:51 PM  
**To:** [george.vincent@gmail.com](mailto:george.vincent@gmail.com) <[george.vincent@gmail.com](mailto:george.vincent@gmail.com)>; [Tonime@hotmail.com](mailto:Tonime@hotmail.com) <[Tonime@hotmail.com](mailto:Tonime@hotmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Gallus, Chris J. <[Christopher.Gallus@mt.gov](mailto:Christopher.Gallus@mt.gov)>; Hendricksen-Scott, Shelley <[Shelley.Hendricksen-Scott@mt.gov](mailto:Shelley.Hendricksen-Scott@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** New Complaint Received by COPP- Gunderson v. Backen, COPP-2026-CFP-009

Vincent,

Please see the attached copies of *Gunderson v. Backen*, COPP-2026-CFP-009, a formal Campaign Finance and Practices (CFP) Complaint submitted to COPP and initially accepted by Commissioner Gallus. A letter from the Commissioner briefly outlining the formal Complaint process and requesting that you provide a formal written response to the specific allegation/s presented is also attached. As a courtesy, hard copy (paper) versions of these documents can be sent via U.S. Mail upon request. This complaint will be publicly posted to COPP's agency website tomorrow (May 19, 2026).

Scott Cook

Compliance Specialist 3/Public Records Officer

Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices

(406) 444-4627

[SCook3@mt.gov](mailto:SCook3@mt.gov)

# Order R460345735

[Download invoice](#)

## Shipping address

Vincent Backen  
427 Thomas Street  
Libby, MT 59923  
United States

## Billing address

Vincent Backen  
427 Thomas Street  
Libby, MT 59923  
United States

## Payment method

 Ending in 0469

## Order summary

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Item total   | \$113        |
| Shipping     | \$0          |
| Sales tax    | \$0          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$113</b> |

## Delivered Monday, May 4

[Track this shipment](#)



### button

2.25" Round buttons  
by [Vincent](#)  
Size: 2.25" x 2.25"  
Quantity: 300

\$113



# Order R088450340

Reorder

Download invoice

### Shipping address

Vincent Backen  
427 Thomas Street  
Libby, MT 59923  
United States

### Billing address

Vincent Backen  
427 Thomas Street  
Libby, MT 59923  
United States

### Payment method

 Ending in 0469

### Order summary

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Item total   | \$113        |
| Shipping     | \$28         |
| Sales tax    | \$0          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$141</b> |

**Delivered Thursday, April 16**

 [Track this shipment](#)



**2.25" Round buttons**

Size: 2.25" x 2.25"

Quantity: 300

\$113

# Orders

Order Number: 91308396

Order Date: 4/29/2026 8:51:31 AM

Order Total: **\$607.97**

[View Items >](#)

Order Number: 91294900

Order Date: 4/12/2026 9:56:40 PM

Order Total: **\$2,077.26**

[View Items >](#)

Order Number: 91282273

Order Date: 3/25/2026 10:26:46 PM

Order Total: **\$1,777.86**

[View Items >](#)