

To: Scott Cook

Re: Lester v. Gage

Date: September 12, 2024

Dear Mr. Cook,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the matter referenced above. I apologize for my delayed response; I was initially taken aback by the accusation and needed to review the situation thoroughly.

In May of this year, I was approached by Kane Fisher of Immanuel Security. Mr. Fisher invited me to participate in one of his business commercials, where I would briefly mention my candidacy for Sheriff, and he would conclude by expressing his and his company's support for my campaign. Although I was unfamiliar with Mr. Fisher's commercials, I was informed that they are frequently aired on local radio stations. Since I primarily listen to XM Radio, I am not familiar with the Butte radio stations.

I agreed to participate, and we recorded the ad at the station. To my knowledge, the station did not require a political disclosure at the end, given that it was for his business. Since then, I have not heard the ad, and I was unaware of any potential issues until receiving written notification of the complaint.

On Tuesday, Mr. Fisher emailed me a copy of the complaint he also received. In our subsequent phone conversation, Mr. Fisher informed me that the advertisement was still airing and that he and his wife had taken additional steps to support my campaign independently. This included placing political magnets on their business vehicles and distributing yard signs that were not coordinated with my campaign and did not use our campaign's colors.

I believe that Mr. and Mrs. Fisher acted in good faith and intended to support my campaign without violating any campaign laws. Our campaign was unaware of these independent actions by the Fishers.

We are committed to complying with all campaign regulations and wish to correct any issues that may have arisen from this situation. Please advise us on the necessary steps to address this complaint, whether it involves listing the advertisement as a campaign donation or issuing a personal refund to Mr. Fisher.

We understand that we cannot control the actions of supporters outside the campaign if we are not informed, but we are eager to follow any guidance provided by your office.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to your response and are committed to adhering to any recommendations you provide.

Sincerely,

Mike Gage