

Cook, Scott

From: Andy Shirtliff <andy@andyshirtliff.com>
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 11:56 AM
To: Cook, Scott; Gallus, Chris J.; Hendricksen-Scott, Shelley; jruselman@gmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Confirmation of Attribution Rectification
Attachments: Invoice 2025-08a-SHIRTlif.pdf; Invoice_44_2025-09-14.pdf

November 7, 2025

Commissioner Gallus,

The Friends of Andy Shirtliff campaign submits the following response regarding the complaint concerning the valuation of video production services. The allegations presented in the complaint are incomplete and do not reflect the total cost of the production. As a result, the complaint creates an inaccurate understanding of the transaction. The full details and clarification of costs are provided below.

It is standard practice in business for parties to negotiate price. The Friends of Andy Shirtliff campaign cannot speak to pricing arrangements that Big Sky Production Services may have with other clients. In this instance, the campaign negotiated the component parts of the production, including staff time, mileage reimbursement, meals, and the use of campaign staff in order to reduce the overall cost of services required from the production company.

During negotiations, Big Sky Production Services advised the campaign that three to four staff members would typically be required to ensure the level of quality expected for the video. They indicated that additional personnel would ordinarily operate the teleprompter, camera, lighting equipment, and related production functions. To minimize cost, the Friends of Andy Shirtliff campaign chose to utilize its own campaign manager for production assistance, limited lighting support, and teleprompter operation. As a result, the only Big Sky Production Services personnel compensated by the campaign was Aspen Cox, and the remainder of the production work was handled by the campaign manager and the candidate.

Complete and accurate cost summary:

1. In-kind contribution from Big Sky Production Services

John Nilles, owner of Big Sky Production Services, provided an in-kind contribution of 450 dollars for video production services.

2. Compensation to Big Sky Production Services staff

Aspen Cox was compensated 371.74 dollars. This amount included the standard day rate and mileage reimbursement at the IRS rate of 0.70 dollars per mile for a round trip of 243.2 miles.

3. Meals provided

The campaign provided lunch for the production team at a cost of 70.80 dollars at Ten Mile Creek Brewery.

4. Campaign staff participation

The campaign manager, Nathan Kosted, performed production assistance as part of his compensated duties. He received a salary payment of 3,500 dollars on September 16, 2025. His work during the video production was included within these compensated responsibilities and therefore did not require additional payment.

The cost structure of the production was the result of negotiation, internal staffing decisions, and the use of campaign personnel to limit expenses. All costs described above were properly valued, properly recorded, and accurately reported in compliance with Montana campaign finance requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Friends of Andy Shirtliff

Invoices and receipt attached.



On Tue, Nov 4, 2025 at 1:41 PM Andy Shirtliff <andy@andyshirtliff.com> wrote:

Hi Scott

The disclaimer that should have been included for the text messages: ***Paid for by Friends of Andy Shirtliff / PO Box 327 – Helena, MT 59624 / Jillian Deitle, MBA – Treasurer***

INVOICE

Big Sky Production Services LLC
P.O. Box 5882
Missoula, MT 59806

accounting@shootmontana.com
+1 (833) 746-6868
<https://www.shootmontana.com/>



Bill to
Andy Shirtliff
Friends of Andy Shirtliff
PO Box 327
Helena, MT 59624

Invoice details
Invoice no.: 2025-08a-SHIRTCLIF
Terms: Net 30
Invoice date: 08/22/2025
Due date: 09/21/2025

Product/service	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
Video Production	Production of Political ad	1	\$450.00	\$450.00
In-Kind Contribution		1	-\$450.00	-\$450.00
Total				\$0.00

Thank you for your business! We take bank transfer or checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 5882 Missoula, MT 59806.

INVOICE

Amount Due (USD)
\$0.00

BILL TO
Friends of Andy Shirtliff

andy@andyshirtliff.com

Invoice Number: 44
Invoice Date: August 15, 2025
Payment Due: September 14, 2025
Amount Due (USD): \$0.00

ITEMS	QUANTITY	PRICE	AMOUNT
political ad for Andy Shirtliff Day Rate	1	\$200.00	\$200.00
Mileage \$0.70 per mile as established by the IRS for 2025. 243.2 miles driven	1	\$170.24	\$170.24
Parking	1	\$1.50	\$1.50
Total:			\$371.74
Payment on August 28, 2025 using a check:			\$371.74
Amount Due (USD):			\$0.00

Aspen Cox
2418 39th Street
apt. 204
Missoula, Montana 59803
United States

Contact Information
4065657628
aspen.shootmontana@gmail.com