

To: Jeff Mangan, Commissioner of Political Practices
From: John Meyer
Re: Denowh Complaint
Date: May 25, 2022

Dear Commissioner Mangan,

This letter responds to communications between Cottonwood Environmental Law Center (“Cottonwood”) and your office regarding a complaint filed by No on I-191 and Charles Denowh on May 11, 2022. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Pursuant to 13-35-225, Cottonwood immediately responded to the complaint that all websites and communications regarding I-191 have a “paid for by” attribution. All I-191 material has been removed from Cottonwood’s website. The I-191.com website does not support or oppose the initiative.

The Office was immediately provided with a financial accounting of the money spent on the initiative to date.

The original petitioners, Cottonwood Environmental Law Center, Gallatin Wildlife Association, and Montana Rivers have decided not to continue working on I-191. John Meyer will continue to educate the public without supporting or opposing the initiative. Pursuant to MCA 13-3-101(32)(a), an individual is not a “political committee.” Please let me know if I need to do something as an individual.

Cottonwood Environmental Law Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. It has historically considered individuals that sign up for its newsletters to be members of the organization. Because Cottonwood encourages inclusivity, it tries not to require a financial contribution to become a member. Cottonwood is considering changing that policy given the increased interest in the good work it is doing combined with the increased opposition.

Cottonwood represents its members in court for free to protect the natural resources that make Montana so special. We consider Charles Denowh to be an important member of our small, but mighty organization. We are grateful Mr. Denowh is part of the Cottonwood team because he has helped ensure the organization is operating according to the law. We look forward to the opportunity to represent Mr. Denowh as a Cottonwood member against water polluters.

If there is anything else I need to address regarding Mr. Denowh's complaint as the sole individual working on I-191 in my personal capacity, please don't hesitate to shout.

Best regards,

/s/ John Meyer
JOHN MEYER

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