

Cook, Scott

From: Kristina Lohmuller <aulax44@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:02 AM
To: Cook, Scott
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Response to Complaint Received October 12, 2022: Bohleen v. Mensik-Lohmuller, COPP-2022-CFP-020

October 14, 2022

Bohleen v. Mensik-Lohmuller, COPP-2022-CFP-020

Dear Commission Jeffrey A Mangan and Compliance Specialist Scott Cook:

It saddens me to see this complaint. The allegations are false, and I am shocked that valuable state resources must now be used to investigate something so disingenuous. In response to the validity of the complaint, I would like to make the following points, which I will follow up with photographic evidence.

1. The signs that Macque Bohleen is referring to are not my signs, and I have no knowledge of who the individual is whose name appears in the disclaimer, the Roscoe MT resident who paid for their design and production and had them put up. I am sending you pictures of the disclaimer on the signs in question. I cannot control the actions of Carbon County citizens, who are dissatisfied with my opponent, the current Deputy Carbon County Clerk & Recorder, and have, therefore, taken it upon themselves to put up campaign signs or distribute campaign materials without my knowledge or approval because they want to see Macque Bohleen NOT become the next Carbon County Clerk & Recorder.
2. This is not the first harassment or slander I have received from Macque Bohleen and the Carbon County Clerk's office. More on this in Point #3.
3. I have spent \$0 on my campaign. My stage 3 cancer is now active. Major stress? Absolutely! My body cannot hold up to the demands of actively campaigning in a fair and clean campaign. One that is filled with harassment, slander, and the dirty politics that have been directed against me steals the precious metabolic and energy resources I absolutely need to fight cancer, and I cannot conceive how anyone can be so calculating and cruel. It is unconscionable. With this critical illness, I have not actively campaigned since early summer, and even then, I did not spend any personal or donated funds. In addition, all donations received were returned before this complaint was ever filed. That there are campaign materials that Carbon County voters have taken upon themselves to pay for and put up, plus donations from certain individuals and groups that were sent to me with none of those apparently received by my opponent, as reported on her campaign financing and spending reports, speak for themselves as to each

candidate's character in this race. This complaint has nothing to do with following political practices; it is, instead, a personal attack on my character. I have held my FINRA licenses, and I understand the serious nature of a complaint that is public information, whether it is true or false. This one is absolutely FALSE, and the stress it is causing me is enormous when I KNOW what public accusations, even false ones, can do to a person's reputation. My whole life, I have worked very hard to be worthy of the public trust placed in me, first as Montana's First Lady of Professional Rodeo as Miss Rodeo Montana 2001, later as a VP and Business Banker for Chase Bank, and now, when concerned citizens of Carbon County sought me out and pleaded with me, because of my personal reputation and business experience, to run for Carbon County Clerk & Recorder. It's hard to express in words how much pain this vicious and careless complaint has caused my family and me.

4. On September 23rd, well before the complaint, my husband sent an email on my behalf to the MT SOS because I was too sick with cancer complications to contact them myself. It was regarding the procedure for withdrawing from a political race due to critical illness. The SOS's reply was that I cannot withdraw. My name will still appear on the ballot, and if elected, I had options to accommodate my illness.

5. Not only am I too ill to actively campaign, my opponent is well aware of this fact, as she was copied on all email correspondences between the invited county candidates and the county organizations who were holding candidate forums for the voting public. In each of those invitations, I needed to disclose that I would be unable to attend due to ongoing Oncology treatments.

6. Campaign signs, by their very purpose, are posted out in the open for viewing, and an individual can also see the "Paid for by" disclaimers. To anyone who takes the time to read, it is obvious that I did not pay for the signs in question, and they were put up apart from my knowledge. Macque Bohleen could certainly have read the disclaimers had she wanted to, and discovered who paid for them before bothering you with this false and unnecessary complaint. I am very sorry you have had to waste your time to address this wrong, but I am glad our legislators have put these laws in place, so that you are there and can investigate wrongs and compel compliance to the Law when violations occur. This keeps the voters of Montana safe, and I appreciate this. So, to both of you, thank you for taking your jobs seriously, and following the law!

To recap my response to this complaint:

Because of the serious nature of my stage 3 cancer with its 50% chance of survival, I felt it was critical to not actively campaign when it again became active. Therefore, I have NOT spent any money towards my race. I am sure you are both fair and compassionate men, who not only understand how stressful this has been to me, but fully recognize how inappropriate it is for a candidate to file such an obviously false and disingenuous complaint against one's opponent, such as this one Macque Bohleen has filed, wasting your time and our taxpayer money when there are so many more critically important things both could be spent on.

I have never done anything malicious to my opponent, Macque Bohleen or anyone else. It is not in my character and why this complaint is so upsetting. She initially missed putting her disclaimers on her campaign signs and later wrote them in with a metallic silver Sharpie. Metallic silver Sharpie ink is not easy to read in the sun and violates that part of the law that states disclaimers must be printed and easily legible. The placement of one of her signs in Joliet is in the State's right-of-way access, just one foot off U.S.Highway 212. But why get petty and file complaints? Let the voters check the box to express their opinion, instead of using bullying and harassing techniques such as what Macque Bohleen, her colleagues in the Clerk's office, and her friends have continually done while I'm battling such a serious illness that I wouldn't wish on anyone!

I desire to hurt no one, including my opponent. Unfortunately, my opponent is not of the same mind, as my person and reputation are being brutally hurt and harmed by this false complaint. I hope for a quick resolution and justice in this matter, so I can continue with **the much more serious BATTLE against cancer**. Thank you for your important part in helping me accomplish this, as I strive to win—NOT a political battle, but the *battle against cancer!*

Yours sincerely,
Kristina Mensik-Lohmuller

On Thu, Oct 13, 2022 at 1:46 PM Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached copy of Bohleen v Mensik-Lohmuller, COPP-2022-CFP-020, a formal Campaign Finance and Practices (CFP) Complaint. A copy of a letter from Commissioner Mangan regarding this complaint is also attached. Hard copies can be sent via U.S. Mail upon request.

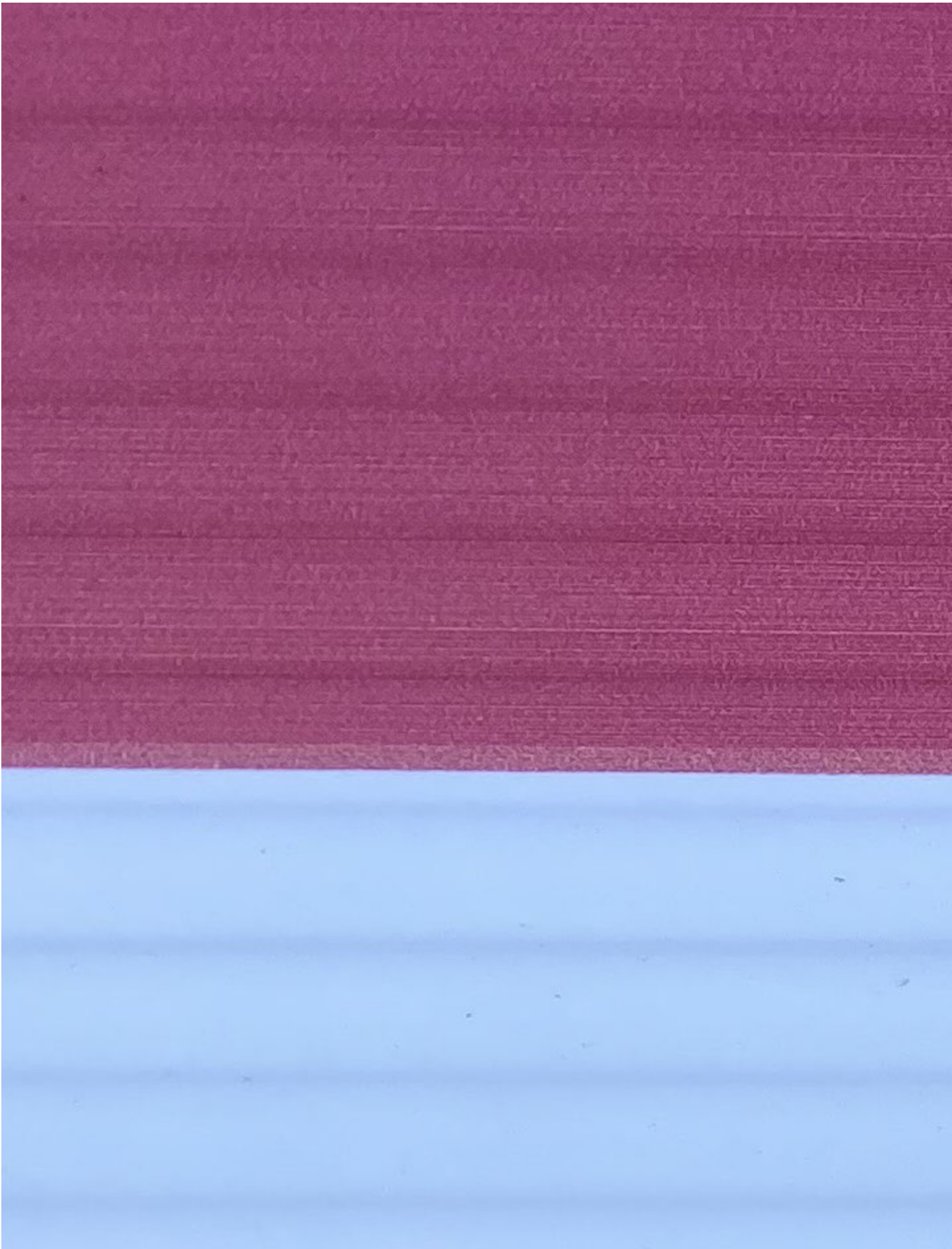
Scott Cook

Compliance Specialist

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VOTE

VOTE

Macque Bohleen
for Carbon County
Clerk & Recorder

VOTE

Paid for By
Macque Bohleen
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59070

VOTE



