

THE STATE OF MONTANA

Commissioner of Political Practices
1205 Eighth Avenue
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Helena, MT 59620-2401
Phone: 406-444-2942
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Ethics

Complaint Form (10/09)

Type or print in ink all information on this form except for verification signature

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Caron Cooper
Complete Mailing Address PO Box 123
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone Numbers: Work 406 589-7129 Home 406 222-5151

Person or organization against whom complaint is brought (Respondent):

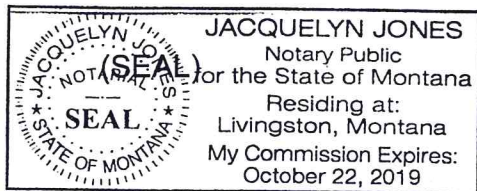
Complete Name Bradley Johnson, Chairman
Complete Mailing Address MT Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Ave, Helena MT 59620
Phone Numbers: Work 444-6169 Home 439-6389

**Please complete the second page of this form
and describe in detail the facts of the alledged violation.**

Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Park

I, Caron Cooper, being duly sworn, state that the information in this
Complaint is complete, true, and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.



[Signature]
Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27 day of
October, 2016.

[Signature]
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: Oct. 22, 2019

Statement of facts:

Describe in detail the alleged violation(s), including pertinent dates, and cite the statute or statutes you believe have been violated. Please attach copies of documentary evidence to support the facts alleged in your statement.

If the space provided below is insufficient, you may attach additional pages as necessary.

see attached

Complaint must be:

- signed
- notarized
- delivered in person or by certified mail.

PSC Chairman Brad Johnson has violated MT Code section 2-2-121 by using his State email and his official title in a letter to the editor sent to multiple Montana newspapers which clearly demonstrate electioneering. His LTE was published by the MT Standard and the Livingston Enterprise.

His political agenda is clear throughout his letter, and his concluding sentence says it all: "And if she still feels it necessary to shun objectivity in favor of ideological pursuits, then I encourage her to rethink her fitness to serve on the PSC."

2-2-121. Rules of conduct for public officers and public employees (3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), a public officer or public employee may not use public time, facilities, equipment, supplies, personnel, or funds to solicit support for or opposition to any political committee, the nomination or election of any person to public office, or the passage of a ballot issue unless the use is:

(i) authorized by law; or

(ii) properly incidental to another activity required or authorized by law, such as the function of an elected public officer, the officer's staff, or the legislative staff in the normal course of duties.

(b) As used in this subsection (3), "properly incidental to another activity required or authorized by law" does not include any activities related to solicitation of support for or opposition to the nomination or election of a person to public office or political committees organized to support or oppose a candidate or candidates for public office.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Johnson, Bradley" <BJohnson@mt.gov>

Date: October 24, 2016 2:16:25 PM MDT (CA)

To: Undisclosed recipients;

Subject: LETTER: Distorting PSC's Record is a Disservice to Consumers

Distorting PSC's Record is a Disservice to Consumers

By: Brad Johnson

As the saying goes, everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but they are not entitled to their own facts.

Caron Cooper, the independent candidate for the District 3 seat on the Montana Public Service Commission, apparently thinks it prudent to create her own facts.

Cooper has repeatedly claimed over the past month that residential electricity rates in Montana have increased 15 percent in the last four years. This is false.

According to utility bill data, the average residential electricity rate for NorthWestern Energy's customers in Montana—the vast majority of electricity customers in the state regulated by the PSC—have increased 2.6 percent (adjusted for inflation) since January 2013. This increase was largely due to NorthWestern Energy's acquisition of 11 hydro-electric dams in 2014. The purchase price of the dams was actually higher due to the zero-carbon emitting nature of the generators.

Cooper has also criticized commission action in recent months to prevent consumers from paying for overpriced solar energy. The current commission is very much pro-renewable, but not if ratepayers are harmed in the process.

If elected to the commission, Cooper clearly will have a tough time reconciling her “develop renewables at any cost” mentality with her claimed desire to protect ratepayers.

For someone running for the Public Service Commission, Cooper has shown a surprising lack of knowledge of the subject matter she will be working on. She appears driven by an ideological urge to support green energy at any cost to ratepayers; a dangerous characteristic in a PSC commissioner. I encourage Cooper to spend more time researching the subject matter that she will be working on if elected. And if she still feels it necessary to shun objectivity in favor of ideological pursuits, then I encourage her to rethink her fitness to serve on the PSC.

Brad Johnson, R-East Helena, is Chairman of the Montana Public Service Commission

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Chairman
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