

THE STATE OF MONTANA

Commissioner of Political Practices
1205 Eighth Avenue
Post Office Box 202401
Helena, MT 59620-2401
Phone: 406-444-2942
Fax : 406-444-1643
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

Campaign Finance and Practices

Complaint Form (10/09)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

HAND DELIVERED ☐

CERTIFIED MAIL ☒

SIGNED/NOTARIZED ☒

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

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name

John Esp

Complete Mailing Address

Box 1024
Big Timber, MT 59011

Phone Numbers:

Work

932-5662 Home 932-5662

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

Complete Name

Doug Wir, Bob Faw, Terry Bird

Complete Mailing Address

Box 1591
Big Timber, MT 59011

Phone Numbers:

Work

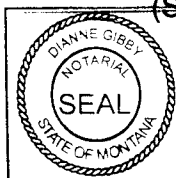
Home 932-5374

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

Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Sweet Grass

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



(SEAL)

DIANNE GIBBY
NOTARY PUBLIC for the
State of Montana
Residing at Big Timber, Montana
My Commission Expires
July 15, 2015

John Esp
Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of
November, 2012.

Dianne Gibby
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

Statement of facts:

Describe in detail the alleged violation(s) 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.

The attached letter is clearly an advocacy piece. (see pages 5 and 6.)

Three people are involved therefore they are a political committee as per 13-1-101(22).

As such, they are required to report donations and expenditures as per Chapter 37 of Title B.

To date they have not.

Complaints must be:

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

• Doug Lair, Bob Faw
Box 1591
Big Timber, MT 59011

June 3, 2010

Dear Friend,

We are writing to you today about something that is deeply troubling to us, and it may be to you as well.

We are Bob Faw and Doug Lair - two local Big Timber residents with a combined 100-plus years of life experience, and both current and former owners of many small businesses in Sweet Grass County.

We, both along with our respective families, have been very involved in and committed to the local community, throughout the area of Park and Sweet Grass.

You see, we are usually not the type to get involved in politics in this way. In fact, other than always voting on Election Day we never really had the time to do much more because of our business and family commitments.

But after witnessing the false personal attacks coming out of John Esp's campaign for State House -- attacks against our close friend Joel Boniek -- we felt like we owe it to the good folks of this area to set the record straight.

First, let us say that we've both known John Esp for many years. We've done business with him, worked with him on legislative issues, socialized with him and we don't think he's a bad person.

But we are very disappointed in the campaign he's running this year to oust Representative Boniek after his first term, a term in which we believe Joel delivered on his campaign promises.

We are also concerned that John Esp may be running for the wrong reasons - not to serve constituents, but to serve John Esp.

Not only that, but some of his past and present positions are completely contrary to those of most conservative Montanans, and we believe you should know about that.

You see, for most of his life, John has been a carpenter and builder, an honorable trade by any measure.

But we think being in Helena too long may have clouded John's judgment, and we have to ask why those in his camp -- and even John himself -- are "tearing down" his opponent with a vicious campaign of lies for nothing more than pure political gain.

You may have heard, as we have, vicious unfounded smears against Joel, being spread by his opposition. We can personally tell you there's no truth to any of it. Joel is a good, decent family man, husband, and friend to many here locally.

Joel Boniek is a respected leader in the community and serves as Vice President of the very conservative Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Livingston. He's also done missionary work on 5 continents, helping the poor, teaching English, and serving others.

Joel believes in turning the other cheek.

However, we believe his humility and his quiet, thoughtful personality may have allowed the poisonous lies, unchecked, to reach the ears of some in our community who don't know Joel, and we think that needs to be addressed here and now.

This rumor-mongering makes us wonder how deeply held John Esp's "conservative principles and sense of decency" really are, especially with some of his actions as a State Senator.

You see, John lived outside the district just last year, and moved back inside its borders in Big Timber just in time to file for office for this race, even though he has already served in the State House and State Senate for the past 10 years.

Continuing in office provides some benefits, but health insurance and political power are certainly not good reasons to continue a political career.

Also during his career in Helena, John made some **important** votes that conservatives just cannot agree with.

You see, John Esp has repeatedly sponsored -- not just supported, but FOUR TIMES HAS SPONSORED -- a Real Estate Transfer Tax, or "RETT".

But you have to give John credit for perseverance -- because even though he couldn't get the RETT passed with a Democrat governor and

- Democrats in majorities in the Legislature, he hasn't let a SINGLE session go by without trying to tax Montanans for passing their land on to their children and grandchildren.

Unfortunately, we can come to no other conclusion than that John has turned into a "career politician" over his 10 years in Helena.

And we all know what that gets us.

Career politicians increased state spending by nearly 50% over just the last 5 years, while John was a member of the Senate Finance Committee.

They spent our nearly \$500 million dollar surplus and then saddled us with a projected \$473 MILLION deficit with no end in sight.

And according to recent news reports, these career politicians have made government - over every company in the private sector -- the largest employer in all of Montana.

So do we really need another career politician in Helena representing us?

No, and that's why when we found out that John Esp's campaign has been focused on negative personal attacks and false rumors about Joel Boniek, we felt we had to set the record straight.

But what is missing now from the discussion in this race is a little more about John and his liberal voting record in the State Senate.

For starters, out of the 27 Republicans in the State Senate, John is ranked second to last when it comes to fiscal responsibility by an independent study of votes by Montanans in Action.

Perhaps that explains why John voted for a bill in 2009 that gave Planned Parenthood \$900,000 in taxpayer money. Or why he's requested that Montana implement a Real Estate Transfer Tax (Inheritance Tax) on multiple occasions.

Not only that, but he also voted to burden all Montana taxpayers by expanding an unpopular government-run State Children's Healthcare Insurance Program (S-CHIP)* which is very troublesome, especially at a time when Barack Obama is trying to ram full-fledged government-run healthcare down all of our throats.

But it's not just issues like taxes and spending that John is out of touch with Montanans on.

He's also out of touch with one of our most cherished traditional Montana values -- the right to keep and bear arms.

You see, at a Big Timber candidate forum held by the Farm Bureau on May 19, John stated that the Second Amendment is "not that important to me."

And his voting record reflects that.

That's why it should be no surprise John Esp voted **against** a resolution urging Congress to allow law-abiding citizens to carry a firearm in state and national parks.**

Or why John Esp voted AGAINST a Castle Doctrine law for Montana.***

As you know, Montana's Castle Doctrine gives citizens who are attacked the right to stand their ground, without the risk of second-guessing by anti-gun prosecutors.

And John Esp opposed this!

Now, compare John's spending record to Joel's, and it's not tough to see that Joel is the man to best represent us in Helena.

You see, while John was busy doling out taxpayer money to all of his special-interest pals in Helena, Joel was standing up for hardworking Montanans by leading the fight against the tax-and-spenders' bloated \$4 BILLION budget.

Not only that, but Joel also helped defeat the so-called Earned Income Tax Credit (a tax credit for those who don't pay a DIME in taxes to begin with), which would have cost Montana taxpayers another \$25 MILLION per year.

That's just a few of the many reasons why Joel is ranked by Montanans In Action as the #1 most fiscally responsible Representative in the state of Montana!

And it's EXACTLY why we are supporting Joel Boniek for State Representative.

You see, we've gotten to know Joel Boniek now over the past couple of years. And knowing both men, we will tell you this with conviction: We'll be voting for Joel Boniek on June 8.

Joel Boniek is a man who has fought hard for us in Helena over the past two years, and that's why we are proud to support him in his bid for reelection to the State House.

Joel Boniek believes in the ideals of liberty and freedom passed down to us by our Founding Fathers. But he also believes in real solutions to the problems we have as a state. Solutions like:

Capping Property Taxes: Folks who've been in their houses and ranches for years shouldn't have to worry about being forced to sell because their homes are reappraised and they can't pay the outrageous property tax bills!

Balancing the Budget: Joel has personally promised us (and publicly committed to everyone in Montana) that he will NEVER vote for higher taxes - and that also means Federal "Stimulus" dollars that mortgage our children's future.

ENDING wasteful spending: Some folks don't like to talk about this. They love to talk about "bringing home the bacon". But the fact is, the "bacon" is killing us. We have to end earmarks and pork barrel projects if we want to get our state budget under control.

Respecting the 10th Amendment: Joel will work to end federal control over education and healthcare, to eliminate burdensome regulations, and has promised never to vote to give the federal government more power over our state. He's already started this process with the nationally renowned "Firearms Freedom Act".

New Economic Development for Montanans: Joel believes the best way to bring jobs to Montana is to cut bureaucratic red tape and lower taxes on Montana's businesses, while responsibly finding new markets for Montana's precious resources.

If you agree, then we hope you'll join us in re-electing Joel Boniek on June 8.

Joel is a man of principle with the voting record to prove it.

In this primary election, we have a clear choice.

A choice between John Esp, who chose to challenge a seated and very conservative and effective legislator, who has record of raising taxes, supporting wasteful government spending and working against our traditional Montana values.

Or a man like Joel Boniek who has a proven record of ALWAYS standing up to the tax-and-spenders, and supporting our cherished values of freedom and liberty.

So when you go the polls on June 8, you must ask yourself what type of representative you want in Helena.

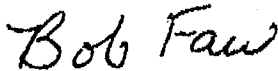
Do you want to nominate a moderate with a "Democrat-lite" message of compromise on the most important issues?

Or do you prefer a committed, constitutional conservative who will fight day in and day out to protect our freedom and traditional Montana values?

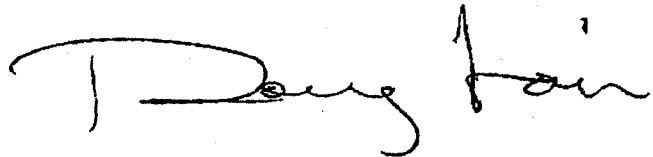
If, like us, you prefer a REAL conservative, then you should be confident that with Joel Boniek that's exactly what you'll get.

So please, join us on Tuesday, June 8 in voting for our friend Joel Boniek for State Representative.

Sincerely,



Bob Faw



Doug Lair

PS: There's only one constitutional conservative Republican in this race for State House, and that's Joel Boniek.

Joel has served with great personal and professional integrity, and has always put taxpayers first. As we have said above, his opponent's rumor-mongering, voting record and status as a "career politician" causes us grave concern.

So please, join us on June 8 and vote for Joel Boniek for State Representative.

*SCHIP is SB560, 2007

**HJ14, 2009

***HB340, 2007

Paid for by private citizen Terry Baird, a longtime businessman and resident of House District 61

John Esp
Box 1024
Big Timber, MT 59011

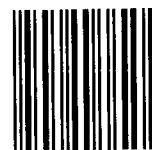
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