

COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES



CC 1

STATE OF MONTANA

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April 15, 2011

Rita R. Windom  
PO Box 830  
Libby, MT 59923

Subject: Complaint filed September 13, 2010 against Rhoda Cargill

Ms. Windom,

I have thoroughly reviewed your complaint alleging Rhoda Cargill violated Montana campaign finance and practices laws by not reporting expenditures relating to two newspaper advertisements and a fundraising luncheon.

Ms. Cargill responded with the attached letter. Ms. Cargill was apparently unaware of the advertisements placed in the two newspapers prior to printing, reimbursed the individual who placed the ads independent of the knowledge of the campaign, and amended her finance report to reflect the expenditure. Further, while Ms. Cargill did initially neglect to report the in kind donation of food for her fundraising luncheon, she subsequently amended the report to reflect the donation.

My office has traditionally given candidates the benefit of the doubt when they have demonstrated a good faith effort to bring their election materials into compliance. I have determined that under the circumstances, it would not be in the best interests of the state to further investigate this matter; therefore, I am dismissing the complaint.

A letter has been sent to Ms. Cargill informing her of the decision and reminding her that she needs to be sure any campaign activity with which she's involved in the future meets the requirements in Montana law.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Jennifer L. Hensley  
Commissioner

cc: Rhoda Cargill