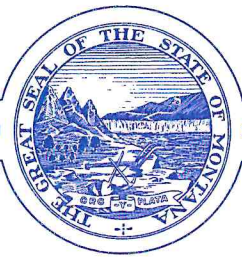


COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

CHRIS J. GALLUS  
COMMISSIONER  
TELEPHONE (406) 444-2942  
FAX (406) 444-1643

1209 EIGHTH AVENUE  
PO BOX 202401  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2401  
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

November 27, 2023

David Arends  
P.O. Box 1006  
Conrad, MT 59425

Delivered via email to: [Contact@davidarends.org](mailto:Contact@davidarends.org)

Subject: Complaint received November 22, 2023; *Hovland v. Arends*, COPP-2023-CFP-025

The enclosed complaint alleges a violation of Montana election law. The complaint is accepted as conforming to the requirements of 44.11.106 ARM, the administrative rule regarding campaign complaints.

Upon review, I have determined that the allegation that certain material failed to include the 'paid for by' attribution message and partisan affiliation required under Montana Code Annotated (MCA) § 13-35-225 is merited. You will need to add full attribution messaging and partisan affiliation to unattributed campaign material- including the campaign website, any paid social media posts or advertisements, and the campaign sign specifically referenced in this complaint- and email a photo to COPP showing this addition. Distribution of any unattributed campaign material must be halted until the full 'paid for by' attribution message and partisan affiliation is added.

**This attribution remedy needs to be provided to COPP no later than 5:00 PM Tuesday, November 28, 2023** (within 2 business days), as provided for under Mont. Code Ann. 13-35-225(6)(a)(i). Failure to bring "material into compliance as required...is subject to a civil penalty pursuant to 13-37-218, MCA", 13-35-225(6)(b), Mont. Code Ann. Any response you provide is a public record that COPP posts on our website, per Mont. Code Ann. §13-37-132.

If you did not engage in the activity relating to this complaint, I would appreciate having any additional information you can provide as to potential parties involved. It is in everyone's best interest to immediately resolve the situation in the manner described above, and COPP will work with you, or other parties, to get this accomplished.

Thank you for your immediate attention and consideration of this urgent matter.

Regards,

/s/ Chris J. Gallus

Chris J. Gallus  
Commissioner of Political Practices