



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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October 12, 2023

Sent electronically to Glen Morgan at glen@wethegoverned.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Rural Americans United (RAU) PAC, PDC Case 140960

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on August 3, 2023. The complaint alleged that Rural Americans United (RAU) PAC (Committee), a Single Election Committee registered with the PDC in the 2023 election year, may have violated RCW 42.17A.220 for accepting over the limit anonymous contributions.

To determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations, PDC staff reviewed your allegation; the applicable statute(s), rule(s), and reporting requirements; the Monetary Contribution (C-3) and Summary, Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) reports filed by the Committee; the response to the complaint submitted by Skye White, treasurer, on behalf of the Committee; and other relevant information.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- On May 18, 2023, the Committee filed a Committee Registration (C-1pc) report and selected the Full Reporting Option and listed Skye White as Ministerial Treasurer.
- RCW 42.17.220(4) limits unidentified contributions, except for those made by individuals/persons whose names must be recorded and maintained by a political committee's treasurer in excess of one percent of the total accumulated anonymous contributions or \$500, whichever is more.
- Staff noted that the Committee accepted \$510 in anonymous contribution, which is more than is allowed under the statutory scheme.
- In its responses to the complaint, received on August 23, 2023, the Committee, by way of the treasurer, Skye White, stated: "In response to the complaint filed against us on August 3, 2023, we have escheated the amount over and above the statutory limit to the State of Washington, in the amount of \$10 to get back into compliance with the statutory limit requirements. I have attached a pdf of our electronic payment, which will be issued in the form of a check directly from our bank account."

- On September 5, 2023, PDC staff received a \$10 payment from the Committee to be escheated to the State of Washington.

While our review found that Rural Americans United PAC accepted and deposited over the limit anonymous contribution(s) in violation of RCW 42.17A.220, the Committee took responsibility and promptly escheated the over limit anonymous contribution to the State of Washington.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), Rural Americans United PAC will receive a formal warning letter concerning its failure to adhere to the statutory anonymous contribution limits delineated in RCW 42.17A.220. The formal written warning will include staff's expectation that Rural Americans United PAC adhere to the statutory contribution limits in all future campaigns. Additionally, Rural Americans United PAC will be informed that the Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

Accordingly, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina, Compliance Officer at (360) 586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/_____
Erick O. Agina, Compliance Officer

s/_____
Peter Frey Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Rural Americans United PAC

