

January 29, 2020

Via Email (pdc@pdc.wa.gov)

Tabitha Townsend
Compliance Coordinator
Public Disclosure Commission
Olympia, Washington

RE: PDC Case Number 63408

Dear Ms. Townsend:

This letter responds to the complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission on January 13, 2020, PDC Case Number 63408. The Puget Sound Regional Council's board meetings include an opportunity for members of the public to comment on topics on the agenda. The remarks at issue were made during the public comment period at the January 9, 2020 Transportation Policy Board meeting and referenced a topic on the agenda.

We encourage the PDC to review the recording of the meeting. Our review concluded that a person may have identified himself as a candidate for Governor, made reference to a topic on the agenda, and proceeded with comments similar to those he has made at prior meetings. PSRC did not recognize this as campaign activity.

PSRC is mindful of the prohibition on use of public facilities for campaign purposes and does not allow agency resources to be used for those purposes. The agency is also mindful of limitations on the agency's ability to restrict the public's right to comment.

Please be assured that PSRC is aware of the importance of preventing public facilities, including public comment periods, from being used to support or oppose any candidate or ballot proposition. PSRC does not allow members of the public to campaign during public meetings, if their conduct is recognizable as campaigning, and will continue to be on the alert to ensure that state law is followed.

If you need any additional information on this topic, the PSRC is ready to help. Please contact Rick Olson at 206.971.3050, rolson@psrc.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tanya Barnett
Direct Line: (360) 786-5247 | Email: tbarnett@cascadialaw.com

cc: Josh Brown, Executive Director of PSRC (via email)
Mark Gulbranson, Deputy Executive Director of PSRC (via email)

Cascadia Law Group PLLC
cascadialaw.com

SEATTLE
1201 Third Avenue
Suite 320
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 292-6300 voice
(206) 292-6301 fax

OLYMPIA
606 Columbia Street NW
Suite 212
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 786-5057 voice
(360) 786-1835 fax