

Eva Metz

Dear Mx. Blackhorn,

I am on behalf of Tax Amazon, in response to the complaint that was brought by Mr. Schofield. For the following reasons, all three allegations of the complaint are without merit.

- Allegation One: Violation of RCW 42.17A.205 for failure to register as a political committee.
  - Response: Tax Amazon has not violated RCW 42.17A.205 because there is no existing ballot proposition. As defined in RCW 42.17A.005,

(4) "Ballot proposition" means any "measure" as defined by RCW 29A.04.091, or any initiative, recall, or referendum proposition proposed to be submitted to the voters of the state or any municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other voting constituency from and after the time when the proposition has been initially filed with the appropriate election officer of that constituency before its circulation for signatures.

Tax Amazon has brought together community members, unions, and community organizations to discuss potential strategies for taxing big business, with community members democratically deciding the general tenets of an initiative measure that might be put forward. A ballot proposition has not been filed with any election officer, has not been circulated for signatures, and does not in fact exist at this time. Thus, Tax Amazon as of this date has not had the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures in support of any ballot proposition, nor actually received contributions or made expenditures in support of one, as would be required in order for Tax Amazon to be deemed a political committee as defined in RCW 42.17A.005(40).

- Allegation Two: Violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 for failure to report contributions and expenditures as a political committee.
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  - As no ballot proposition exists, there is no political committee to register and therefore there are no contributions or expenditures to report.
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- Allegation Three: Violations of RCW 42.17A.640 for failure to report grassroots lobbying activity.
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  - Response: Tax Amazon has not violated RCW 42.17A.640 because it has not made expenditures exceeding \$700 in the aggregate in any one-month period or \$1,400 in the aggregate in any three-month period in presenting a program to the public intended, designed, or calculated primarily to influence legislation. Tax Amazon has put forward calls for supporters to take action against the threat of a state ban on taxing big business in Olympia, and has gathered signatures on-line, but the actual work of doing this has been done by volunteers; as an organization, Tax Amazon has not spent more than approximately \$300 in support of this call through emails and text messages.
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If you have any followup questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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