

**Respondent Name**

Steve O'Ban

**Complainant Name**

Alex Bond

**Complaint Description**

[Alex Bond](#) (Tue, 28 Jul 2020 at 4:54 PM)

WAC 390-16-309 covers affiliated entities that share contribution limits. The WAC states that:  
“(3) In addition to subsection (1) of this section, two or more entities shall be treated as one entity and share a contribution limit under RCW [42.17A.405](#) and [42.17A.410](#) if one of the entities is established, financed, maintained or controlled by the other, as evidenced by any one or more of the following factors:

- (a) Whether one entity owns a controlling interest in the voting stock or securities of another entity; or
- (b) Whether one entity has authority or the ability to direct or participate, other than through a vote as a member, in the governance of another entity through provisions of constitution, bylaws, contract or other formal or informal procedure or has authority or the ability to hire, appoint, demote or otherwise control, other than through a vote as a member, the officers or other decision making employees or members of another entity; or
- (c) Whether (i) one entity has a common or overlapping membership with another which indicates either a formal or ongoing relationship between the two organizations or the creation of a successor entity; and (ii) the entity has an active or significant role in the formation of the other entity; and (iii) the entities have similar patterns of contributions or contributors which indicate a formal or ongoing relationship between the entities; or
- (d) Whether one entity provides, causes or arranges, funds, services or goods in a significant amount or on an ongoing basis, through direct or indirect means to the other entity, for less than full consideration. Full consideration includes the payment of membership dues.”

Under this definition, the continuing political action committees The Leadership Council and WA Forward (The Leadership Council) are clearly affiliated committees that share a contribution limit. Of the \$250,100 that WA Forward (The Leadership Council) has raised, \$250,000 of that is from The Leadership Council. The Leadership Council and WA Forward (The Leadership Council) share a committee officer, Mark Schoesler. Their affiliation is indisputable.

On 10/24/2019, The Leadership Council contributed \$1,000 for the primary election and \$1,000 for the general election to the campaign of Sen. Steve O'Ban of the 28<sup>th</sup> LD. On 7/8/2020, WA Forward (The Leadership Council) contributed \$1,000 for the primary election to O'Ban's campaign. By contributing a combined \$2,000 for the primary election, these affiliated PACs have made contributions over the legal limit and O'Ban's campaign has broken the law by accepting them.

O'Ban is an experienced politician with a professional staff and treasurer, as are the officers of the PACs in question. This cannot be judged as a harmless error. This was an intentional effort to break contribution limits and evade our voter-approved campaign finance laws. It must also be noted that WA Forward (The Leadership Council) is responsible for racist attack ads so gross and

despicable that even candidates who benefit and the donors who fund them have denounced them. This behavior must be responded to quickly by the PDC with meaningful enforcement action that will deter any future violations.

**What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?**

**List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found**

**List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them**

**Certification (Complainant)**

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.