



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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[DATE]

Delivered electronically to contact@ruralamericansunited.org

Subject: PDC Case 161500 regarding Rural Americans United

Rural Americans United:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint filed by Conner Edwards on October 9, 2024. The complaint alleged violations of: RCW 42.17A.205 for failing to update a Committee Registration with the PDC, and RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 for failure to timely and accurately disclose contributions and expenditures on Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions (C-3) reports and Campaign Summary Receipts and Expenditures (C-4) reports, disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken during the 2024 election year.

Applicable Laws and Rules

- RCW 42.17A.205 requires a political committee to report the names and contact information of its officers.
- RCW 42.17A.235 describes the required filing deadlines for disclosure of campaign finance activities including monetary contributions.
- RCW 42.17A.240 requires committees file accurate campaign finance reports with the Public Disclosure Commission.

Background and Findings

- Rural Americans United (Committee) registered with the PDC on April 12, 2023, listing Doug White, Galen Greenwalt and Skye White as officers. Its most recent registration, filed March 29, 2024, lists Doug White and Tracy Hernandez, with Hernandez listed as a ministerial treasurer.
- White, listed on the registration as CEO, responded to the complaint, stating they are the only officer. White stated Rural Americans United has a board of advisors, but the advisors have no legal connections or financial access to the Political Committee.
- In response to the alleged violations the Committee failed to timely and accurately file C-3 and C-4 reports, White stated Hernandez worked to bring the Committee into compliance and made updates to the Committee's PDC reports.

- PDC staff noted the expenditure detail for the Committee's radio advertising lacked the names on the stations; however, the advertising was purchased through a vendor and listed the dates the advertising was broadcast.
- White stated they have attempted to gather additional detail from the vendor and also have provided more specific information to the vendor regarding what information is needed for PDC reporting requirements.

Summary and Resolution

Having reviewed the complaint and the supporting evidence, PDC staff has determined that the committee appears to have violated RCW 42.17A.

White, as CEO of the Committee, completed a Statement of Understanding (SOU) in accordance with WAC 390-37-143 (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule), acknowledging violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240 for not timely and accurately filing one or more Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions (C-3) reports and Campaign Summary Receipts and Expenditures (C-4) reports with the PDC.

Based on guidance regarding current caseload levels the Commission issued at its January 23, 2025 meeting, this matter is being dismissed in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

Any allegations regarding reporting for the 2024 election that are not otherwise addressed are hereby dismissed. However, failure to comply with PDC requirements in the future may lead to enhanced enforcement action.

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed by Alice Fiman

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed by Peter Frey Lavallee

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Conner Edwards