

**Don Benton**

replied

April 7, 2021

To: "PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

Dear PDC,

The piece is completely legal, accurately portrays the potential dire outcome and concern of doubling the estate tax on family businesses and is not a "campaign mailer" subject to disclosure. The piece was a grass roots educational piece. The sponsor was not concealed (mailing permit # used) even though disclosure was not required. I verified requirements with a well known election/PDC attorney prior to even printing and as you indicated in your email, I also checked in with PDC support staff multiple times and followed up in writing. As you, or anyone else, can see from simply looking at the piece, it is clearly a grass roots/educational piece directed specifically at a legislative proposal-HB1465. There is no violation of any rule or law and there is no, and never was a, "mystery" over the mailer. I contend if legislators don't want their constituents to know what bills they are introducing then they should not introduce them. If you disagree with any statement above or they are not factually correct please let me know in writing and I will determine if I need to engage legal advice and provide a detailed answer with legal references and prepare for litigation and reimbursement of legal fees. I was proud to sponsor this educational effort, I stand behind the content as accurate and intend to continue holding elected officials accountable to the citizens of WA during the legislative session for bills they sponsor that clearly hurt families and family owned businesses like this one would have.