



CALLIE A. CASTILLO
206.223.7145
castilloc@lanepowell.com

August 26, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Washington Public Disclosure Commission
PO BOX 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908
E-Mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Re: PDC Case No. 140213 - Let's Go Washington (Sponsored by Brian Heywood)
Response to Defend Washington, letter dated August 15, 2024

Dear Mr. Stutzman:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Let's Go Washington (Sponsored by Brian Heywood) ("Let's Go Washington") in response to the August 15, 2024 letter submitted by Abby Lawlor and Dmitri Iglitzin on behalf of Defend Washington (collectively "Complainants").

As with their prior letters, Complainants are mistaken on both the facts and the law. Simply put, the accusations against Let's Go Washington are false. While it is true that Let's Go Washington has held events during which the cost of gasoline or the price of a burger has been discounted, it is also true that there is nothing illegal about such events. It is also true that Let's Go Washington has complied with the requirements sets forth in RCW 42.17A and WAC 390 with regard to reporting the expenditures incurred for these events.

Campaign Events

To understand why Complainants' accusations are unfounded, it is important to know the facts of these events which Complainants do not have. For the roll back gas price events, Let's Go Washington arranges for the corporate or individual owner of a particular gas station to lower the cost of gasoline to the national average rate for a gallon of gas for a set time period on a particular day. To date, these roll back events have occurred on July 29, August 9, and August 21.¹ After the event, the gas station owner calculates the amount of gas purchased during the time set and the difference in cost from what would have been paid at Washington's rates and

¹ Two more events are scheduled for August 27 and August 29, with more dates to be scheduled in the future.

that paid at the national average rate. Let's Go Washington is then invoiced for the difference in the amounts.

The purpose of these events is to demonstrate the hidden impact of Washington's policies on the price of gasoline and to make information about the initiatives supported by Let's Go Washington available to anyone interested. The events are open to the public. Everyone purchasing gas during the time of the event receives the same rate for gas regardless whether they are interested in the campaign's information or not, and regardless whether they are registered voters or not.

The same is true for the August 17, 2024 campaign event that was held at Headworks Brewing in Enumclaw. Let's Go Washington passed out vouchers for \$5 off a burger from a local food truck to anyone interested, regardless whether—again—the persons supported the initiatives or not, and—again—whether they were registered voters or not. As with the gas at the roll back events, Let's Go Washington paid for the difference between the regular price and the vouchered price of the burgers. This is akin to a campaign selling burgers at a fair booth. The only difference is the use of a food truck instead of volunteers.

There is thus nothing about these events that implicates the illegal practices set forth in RCW 29A.84.250. At no point in time is or has Let's Go Washington given or offered consideration—in any form—to a voter in exchange for their vote. Complainants' baseless accusations are simply not grounded in reality.

Reporting

Complainants' assertions regarding the reporting of these events are likewise off base. For the July 29 roll back event, Let's Go Washington has been invoiced a total of \$833.81 for the gas purchased. The invoice remains unpaid, however, because the station's corporate owner requires a specific payment method that is in the process of being arranged by Let's Go Washington. Thus, under WAC 390-16-042, the less than \$1000 invoice was not required to be reported on Let's Go Washington's July C4 report. The expenditure will be reported upon payment, likely for the August C4 reporting period.

For the August 17 Enumclaw event, the cost of the burgers amounted to \$200 and will be reported on Let's Go Washington's August C4 as required. The August roll back events have not yet been invoiced, and, of course, neither has the planned August 27 and August 29 events. Those expenditures will be timely reported as required.

* * *

In sum, Ms. Lawlor, Mr. Iglitzen, and Defend Washington have again accused Let's Go Washington without any factual or legal basis. Let's Go Washington is fully compliant with Washington's campaign finance laws. The complaint must be closed.

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Sincerely,

LANE POWELL PC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Callie A. Castillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Callie A. Castillo

cc: Dan Brady, Let's Go Washington Legal Counsel

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