

State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

| December 18, 2017 |
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| Delivered electronically to "info@wcvoters.org" |
| Subject: PDC Case 27059 |
| Dear Washington Conservation Voters Action Fund: |
| Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Kimberly Wingett-Bertrand concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC). |
| As noted below to Kimberly Wingett-Bertrand, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter. |
| If you have questions, you may contact Fox Blackhorn at 1-360-753-1980 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at fox.blackhorn@pdc.wa.gov. |
| Sincerely, |
| /s Fox Blackhorn Compliance Coordinator |
| Endorsed by, |
| /s Barbara Sandahl Deputy Director For Peter Lavallee Executive Director |
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December 18, 2017

Delivered electronically to "kim@katerawb.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Washington Voters Conservation Action Fund, PDC Case 27059

Dear Kimberly Wingett-Bertrand:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on November 1, 2017. Your complaint alleged that Washington Voters Conservation Action Fund may have violated RCW 42.17A.335 by falsely attributing quotes to yourself, Kris Greene's former campaign manager.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, and as a result of staff's initial review, we found the following:

- The mailer in opposition to Kris Greene contained a quote from *The Columbian* newspaper from Robert Sabo, which it attributed to Kris Greene's former campaign manager.
- Robert Sabo's title on Kris Greene's C-1 candidate registration form is "Technical Support"
- The reprinting of a quote which contained an error does not constitute libel or defamation per se, as it is not a statement about a candidate, and was made with a belief in *The Columbian*'s accuracy.

Based on these initial findings, staff has determined that in this instance, no evidence supports a finding of a material violation warranting further investigation.

The PDC has closed the matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing further enforcement action in this case.

Executive Director

cc: Washington Voters Conservation Action Fund