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Original via email to: pdc@pdc.wa.gov

November 6, 2024

Public Disclosure Commission 711 Capitol Way S #206 Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Complaint No. 160795

BIL File No. 6694-001

Dear PDC Staff,

Similar to the complaints we responded to in our November 1, 2024, letter, filed in case number 160795, the November 1, 2024, complaint (Complaint 5) involves a claim that ELLA Adelante failed to include proper sponsor identification in a social media post shared through ELLA Adelante's Facebook and Instagram accounts on 11/1/2024 that encouraged viewers to "vote no on I-2117."

As we explained in our prior letter, until very recently, ELLA Adelante was not familiar with PDC political advertising requirements. The mistake alleged in this complaint, like the mistake alleged in the prior complaint, stems from that lack of organizational sophistication. ELLA Adelante is currently working to make sure that its political advertising activities are conducted in conformity with the FCPA. In light of these facts, and for the legal reasons described in detail in our prior letter, we ask that the PDC resolve this matter through a dismissal, written reminder, or an alternative response rather than a full investigation and adjudicative hearing.

Further, the October 30, 2024, complaint (Complaint 4) alleges ELLA Adelante is operating as an unregistered political committee. This is not the case.

The FCPA defines "political committee" as any individual or entity that has "the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures in support of, or opposition to, any candidate or any ballot proposition." RCW 42.17A.005(41). ELLA Adelante does not solicit or receive money that is designated for use in any candidate or ballot proposition campaign. And while the organization may make expenditures on occasion, it is not the primary purpose of the organization.

Applying the four nonexclusive *Evergreen Freedom Foundation* factors to ELLA Adelante makes clear the organization is not a political committee. ELLA Adelante's overall mission is cultural rather than political and its success is not tied to any one election outcome but rather the empowerment of Latina/Latinos across all sectors of society. ELLA Adelante works primarily to increase awareness in the Latina/Latino community about the importance of public engagement. The organization commonly uses

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means other than electoral political activity to further these goals, such as general get out the vote events independent of support for any candidate or ballot measure.

In light of these facts, and for the legal reasons described in detail in our prior letter, we ask that the PDC resolve this matter as well through a dismissal, written reminder, or an alternative response rather than a full investigation and adjudicative hearing.

Sincerely,

Dmitri Iglitzin
Azor Cole

Counsel for ELLA Adelante (We Are Ella)