



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: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdcc.wa.gov

October 6, 2025

Tobacco-Free Action Fund: hlow@tobaccofreekids.org
John Meader: john.meader@atg.wa.gov
Susie Giles-Klein: Susie.GilesKlein@atg.wa.gov

Tobacco-Free Action Fund
1400 I Street Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: Commission Final Order, Tobacco-Free Action Fund, PDC Case 166185

Tobacco-Free Action Fund:

Enclosed is a copy of the Public Disclosure Commission's Final Order Imposing Fine entered in the above-referenced case. At its September 25, 2025, meeting, the Commission found you in violation of RCW 42.17A.640(2)(a)(i)(A), and WAC 390-20-125, and assessed a total civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$2,500 suspended on the conditions set forth in the Final Order.

Electronic Payment Option

Please be aware, processing fees may apply. To start the process for making an online payment, do the following:

- Reply directly to the last email you had with PDC staff.
- PDC staff will email a payment link and further instructions about how to make a payment.

Mail or In-Person Payment Option

To pay by check or money order, make the payment payable to "Washington State Treasurer," write your PDC Case Number in the Memo field, and mail or deliver the payment to one of the addresses listed below, no later than Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

Regular mail:
Public Disclosure Commission
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

Overnight mail or in-person delivery:
Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way S, STE 206
Olympia, WA 98501-1267

Sincerely,
/s/ Alice Fiman
Alice Fiman
Compliance Manager

Enclosure: Final Order for Tobacco-Free Action Fund, PDC Case 166185

1
2
3
4
5
6
7 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**
8 **OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**
9

10 In re the Matter of Enforcement Action
11 Against:

PDC CASE NO. 166185

12 TOBACCO-FREE ACTION FUND,

FINAL ORDER

13
14 Respondent.
15

16 **I. INTRODUCTION**
17

18 This matter was heard in-person and by audio and online streaming by the Washington
19 State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC, Commission) on September 25, 2025. The hearing
20 was held pursuant to Chapter 34.05 RCW, Chapter 42.17A RCW, and Chapter 390-37 WAC.

21 Commissioners present in-person were J. Robert Leach, Commission Chair (presiding);
22 Douglass North, Commission Vice-Chair; and Commissioner James Oswald. Also present were
23 Assistant Attorney General John S. Meader representing the Commission; Assistant Attorney
24 General Susie Giles-Klein representing PDC staff; and Alice Fiman, Compliance Manager, and
25 Kim Bradford, Deputy Director, for PDC Staff. Tobacco-Free Action Fund was represented by
26 Andrew Estep, Lobbyist at Cedar Strategies, and Jason Bennett, Professional Treasurer at Argo

1 Strategies. The proceeding was open to the public and recorded.

2 The hearing concerned allegations that the Respondent violated RCW
3 42.17A.640(2)(a)(i)(A) and WAC 390-20-125 for failing to: a) register and report a grassroots
4 lobbying campaign within 24 hours of the initial presentation to the public when the campaign
5 occurred during the period beginning 30 days before the regular legislative session through the
6 end of that session; and b) timely report the date the campaign was first presented to the public.

7
8 The Commissioners had before them the following materials:

- 9 • Notice of Administrative charges, PDC Case No. 166185, dated July 17, 2025,
10 and signed by Executive Director Peter Lavallee;
- 11 • Report of Investigation for Case 166185, prepared by Alice Fiman, Compliance
12 Manager, dated July 17, 2025, which included:
 - 13 ○ Complaint filed by Conner Edwards on January 22, 2025;
 - 14 ○ PDC emails to Respondent, dated January 30, 2025, and February 24,
15 2025;
 - 16 ○ Filer assistance request from Respondent, dated March 4, 2025;
 - 17 ○ Official Response of Respondent to the complaint, dated March 14, 2025;
 - 18 ○ Original L-6 report filed by Respondent on March 11, 2025;
 - 19 ○ Amended L-6 report for January 1, 2025, to January 31, 2025, filed by
20 Respondent on May 12, 2025;
 - 21 ○ L-2 reports filed by Respondent and Respondent Lobbyist for the period
22 from February 1, 2025, to May 31, 2025.
- 23
24 • Proposed Stipulation as to Facts, Violations, and Penalties submitted by the parties and
25 signed on September 8, 2025, by Yolonda Richardson, CEO of Tobacco-Free Kids, and on
26 September 12, 2025, by Peter Lavallee, Executive Director for the PDC.

II. STIPULATION

The parties jointly submitted a signed Stipulation as to Facts, Violations, and Penalties (Stipulation). Ms. Giles-Klein presented the Stipulation, reviewed the aggravating and mitigating factors, summarized the penalties recommended by PDC Staff, and asked the Commission to accept the Stipulation. Ms. Fiman and Ms. Bradford provided testimony and clarification for PDC staff. Mr. Estep and Mr. Bennett provided testimony for the Respondent, were available for questions, and confirmed the information provided by the PDC. The Respondent took responsibility and asked the Commission to accept the Stipulation. The Commission voted 3-0 to accept the Stipulation as submitted.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent, Tobacco-Free Action Fund has been listed as lobbying client with the PDC since 2019. In the 2025 legislative session, the Respondent sponsored a grassroots lobbying campaign in support of Senate Bill 5183/House Bill 1203 that advocated for the prohibition of the sale of certain tobacco and nicotine products in Washington. The Respondent failed to timely report \$285,585.90 in expenditures by the campaign. The Respondent has no prior violations with the PDC.

2. The Respondent filed its January, 2025, L-6 monthly report 68 days late on March 11, 2025.

3 The Respondent filed its amended L-6 report 130 days late on May 12, 2025. The amended report included required information missing from the original L-6 report, specifically the date the digital advertisements and billboards were launched (January1, 2025).

1
2
3 **IV. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

4 1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to Chapter 42.17A
5 RCW, the state campaign finance and disclosure law; Chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative
6 Procedure Act; and Title 390 WAC.

7
8 2. Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.640(2)(a)(i)(A), and WAC 390-20-125, Respondent failed
9 to register and report a grassroots lobbying campaign within 24 hours of the initial presentation
10 to the public when the campaign occurred during the period beginning 30 days before the regular
11 legislative session through the end of that session. The Respondent further failed to timely report
12 the date the campaign was first presented to the public.

13
14 3. Mitigating factors in this case are: L-2 Lobbyist Monthly Expenditure Reports are
15 due the 14th of the month following the activity. Monthly L-2 reports for Tobacco-Free Action
16 Fund were filed by lobbyist Andrew Estep, working for lobbyist employer Cedar Strategies,
17 LLC. The February, March, and April, 2025, L-2 reports were timely filed. The May, 2025,
18 L-2 report was filed five days late.

19
20 4. Aggravating factors in this case are: L-2 reports filed on behalf of Tobacco-
21 Free Action Fund by Cedar Strategies, LLC, covering the months of February, March, April
22 and May, 2025, detailed expenses of \$255,379.58 in February, \$553,750 in March, \$201,875 in
23 April, and \$10,000 in May. In total, Respondent reported close to \$1.31 million on direct and
24 indirect lobbying during the 2025 legislative session. The Respondent has been registered with
25 the PDC since at least 2019.
26

1 **V. ORDER**

2 Based upon the stipulated Findings of Fact and the Commission's Conclusions of Law,
3 and the argument and testimony of the parties, the Commission accepts the agreed Stipulation
4 of the parties as to Facts, Violations, and Penalties and orders that:

5
6 1. The Respondent pay an aggregate civil penalty for the combined violations of
7 \$5,000, with \$2,500 suspended, on the following conditions:

8
9 a. The non-suspended portion of the penalty (\$2,500 of the \$5,000 total
10 monetary penalty) is paid by the Respondent within 30 days of the date
11 of the Final Order.

12
13 b. The Respondent remains in full compliance with all PDC reporting
14 requirements and is not found to have committed any further violations
15 of Chapter 42.17A RCW or Title 390 WAC within four years of the date
16 of this Final Order. The suspended penalty shall not be assessed based
17 solely upon any remediable violation, minor violation, or error classified
18 by the Commission as appropriate to address by a technical correction.

19
20 2. If the Respondent fails to satisfy the conditions of Section V(1) of this order, the
21 suspended portion of the penalty shall immediately become due, and the matter
22 may be sent to collections or enforced in Superior Court as allowed by law
23 without further action by the Commission.

24
25 ///

1 So ORDERED this _3rd_ day of October, 2025.

2 WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC
3 DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

4 FOR THE COMMISSION:

5 J. Robert Leach

J. Robert Leach (Oct 3, 2025 13:46:57 PDT)

6 J. Robert Leach,
Chair, Public Disclosure Commission

7 *Copy of this Order mailed and/or emailed to:*

8 Tobacco-Free Action Fund, Respondent,
9 ategen@tobaccofreekids.org and jason@argo.us

10 Alice Fiman. PDC Compliance Manager, Alice.fiman@pdc.wa.gov

11 Susie Giles-Klein, Assistant Attorney General, Counsel for PDC Staff, Susie.giles-klein@atg.wa.gov.

12
13 I, Alice Fiman, certify that I mailed and/or emailed a copy of this order to the
14 Respondent/ Applicant at his/her respective address postage pre-paid on the date stated
herein.

15 Alice Fiman 10/06/25

16 Signed Date

17 **NOTICE: RECONSIDERATION**

18 Pursuant to the provisions of RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 390-37-150, you may file a Petition for
19 Reconsideration with the PDC within ten (10) days from the date this Final Order is served upon
20 you. Any Request for reconsideration must state the specific grounds for the relief requested.
21 Petitions must be electronically mailed to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission,
711 Capitol Way, Room 206, Box 40908, Olympia WA 98504-0908, pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

22 **NOTICE: PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW**

23 You have the right to appeal this Final Order to Superior Court, pursuant to the Petition for
24 Judicial Review provisions of RCW 34.05.542. Any Petition for Judicial Review of this Final
25 Order must be filed with the court and also served upon both the Commission and the Office of
26 the Attorney general within thirty (30) days after the date this Final Order is served upon you.