



# HICKORY TRAVEL & TOURS

*"Your Catawba Valley Travel Professional"*

June 19, 2008

Mr. Jeff Jordan  
Federal Election Committee  
Office of the General Counsel  
999 East Street NW  
Washington DC 20463

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

2008 JUN 27 A 9 19

Dear Sir,

On June 2, 2008, I received an FEC complaint, reference MUR 6009.

In that complaint, it is alleged that my company, Hickory Travel and Tours, Inc, made an in-kind contribution without "any disbursements" to the Sigmon for Congress campaign. That allegation is totally false.

As noted in my attached statement, as owner of Hickory Travel and Tours, Inc. I entered into a verbal agreement with Lance Sigmon to provide various services for his campaign. Those services included a computerized telephone bank, a small desk and other office equipment to use as needed. Hickory Travel and Tours was paid by the Sigmon for Congress campaign on March 13, 2008 in the amount of \$2,788 for these services. The campaign was billed an additional \$7063 on May 7, 2008 for the period between March 13 and 6 May. In total, the campaign was billed a total of \$9851.00 for all services provided.

The Sigmon for Congress campaign office was never located in the Hickory Travel and Tours office building and my office staff never acted in any capacity to support the campaign.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 828-345-5000 or [redacted] Thank you for your attention to this matter

Sincerely,

John Cline  
President  
Hickory Travel & Tours

Cc: Lance Sigmon  
Attachments enclosed

28044220107

**Affidavit**

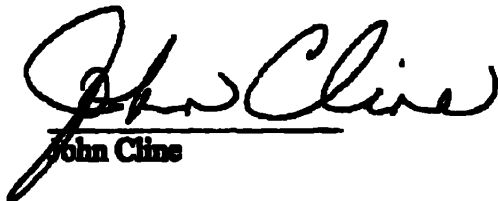
My name is John Jay Cline. I reside at [ ] [ ] [ ] Conover, North Carolina. I am the co-owner of an office building at 1247 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Northeast, Hickory, North Carolina. At this location, I own and operate Hickory Travel and Tours, Inc. At the same location, we rent the upstairs offices to an accounting agency, and I have a personal office.

Several years ago, I became the owner of a computerized phone bank. I maintain that computerized phone bank system within my personal office on a small desk. This phone system is a stand-alone computer attached to several phone lines, the Internet, and a printer. Prior to entering into a verbal agreement with Lance Sigmon, I had not utilized this computerized phone bank for over a year, and I was aware that the phone bank and computer would require some work and updating to be fully operational again.

Sometime in January, 2008, I entered into a verbal agreement with Lance Sigmon, candidate for Congress, concerning the use, for a fee, of this computerized phone bank system during his run for office. As part of my agreement with Mr. Sigmon, I agreed that at least one of the campaign staff members would have access to this stand-alone computer including use of phone lines attached to that computer, unlimited Internet access, use of the printers and other office equipment. Additionally, the agreement also authorized the Sigmon for Congress campaign staff to have use of the office facsimile/copier and other office equipment located in the building if needed while they were working in my personal office. The Sigmon for Congress campaign agreed to help update my phone bank system and phone lists for the area, validate the operational status of the system, and make any adjustments needed in order to utilize the computerized phone bank for the bulk of its campaign calls. By doing so, I gained the ability to use and market my computerized phone system for other purposes in the future.

In addition to this computer system, I also maintain a facsimile machine, several other computers and other phone lines for the use of Hickory Travels and Tours, Inc. Between January and May 2008, I employed between one and two travel agents in connection with Hickory Travel and Tours. Neither employee was associated with the campaign or provided any services to the campaign. However, it is possible that if someone entered the building and asked for me or asked for one of Mr. Sigmon's staff members (if/when someone was in the office working) that one of my employees may have directed that individual to my personal office where the computerized phone bank is located.

Between January and May 2008, Sigmon for Congress utilized the computerized phone bank system and other office equipment in accordance with our previous agreement. For those services, I billed the Sigmon for Congress campaign in the amount of \$2,788.00 in February, 2008, and an additional \$7,063 in May, 2008 (see attached bill) for these services/equipment usage and utilization of the computerized phone bank. I received a check for \$2788 in mid-March 2008. As of today, I have not received payment for the final bill.

  
John Cline

North Carolina  
County of Catawba

Signed and sworn to before me this day by John Jay Cline.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.

(Official Seal)

*Official Signature of Notary*  
*Peggy B. Lunsford*, Notary Public

My commission expires: *February 24, 2011*

28044220109

May 7, 2008

*Hickory Travel and Tours*  
*Hickory, NC*

Simon for Congress  
PO Box 1229  
Newton, NC 28658

Dear Lance,

It has been a pleasure working for your campaign through the phone system. We have printed out phone call lists for every country for your campaign's use. We have also printed out walking lists in which you are able to use for going door to door. The phone system has made thousands of calls.

We have made 66,961 calls, including a call back if the line was busy or went unanswered. The total number reached by live answer or answering machine was over 50,000.

Below is the final bill of the amount that is owed and is due upon receipt. Please make out the check to Hickory Travel and Tours.

The total bill for use of the computerized phone call system, internet access, phone calls made, and use of other office equipment comes to: \$9851.00

Payment received on March 13: \$2788.00

BALANCE DUE: \$7063.00

We are happy to be of service.

Sincerely,

Hickory Travel and Tours

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