Peter J. Savago
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New Paltz, NY 12561

Via Federal Express
Lawrence M. Noble, Esq.
Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
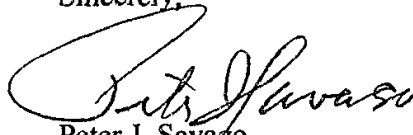999 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 4954

Dear Mr. Noble:

This letter is in response to a complaint filed with your office by Forbes 2000, Inc. against both Mabel Osterhoudt and myself. I am not an attorney and have had only limited experience dealing with Federal election law and your agency. I would, however, like to make the following points in rebuttal to the Forbes 2000, Inc complaint:

(1)   I am the Chairman of the Ulster County Republican Committee. The committee has endorsed and supports the candidacy of George W. Bush for the office of President of the United States of America. My attorney advises me that the committee's actions are within its First amendment rights as delineated by the United States Supreme Court;

(2)   In New York, the presidential candidates themselves do not appear on the primary ballot. Instead, delegate candidates supporting presidential candidates appear on the ballot. I am a delegate candidate supporting George W. Bush in the 26th Congressional District in New York;

(3)   The matter at issue regards a mailing I conducted within Ulster County for presidential delegate petitions in the 26th Congressional District. In order to distribute the petitions for circulation, I typed instructions on county committee stationary and mailed the instructions and a petition sheet to each member of the county committee. The only expense of the county committee in this process was the extremely nominal expense of one piece of stationary. I paid to make 310 copies of the letter and for the approximate $170 postage cost. My name appeared on the designating petition as a candidate for delegate to the 2000 Republican National Convention supporting George W. Bush. My attorney has advised me that I am allowed to spend my own monies on behalf of my delegate candidacy.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Savago