



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20461

June 29, 1999

Peter Michael Meloy, Esquire
Meloy & Morrison
The Bluestone
80 South Warren
PO Box 1241
Helena, MT 59624

RE: MUR 4378
National Republican
Senatorial Committee
Stan Huckaby, as treasurer

Dear Mr. Meloy:

This is in reference to the complaint you filed with the Federal Election Committee on behalf of Senator Max Baucus and Friends of Max Baucus '96 on May 31, 1996.

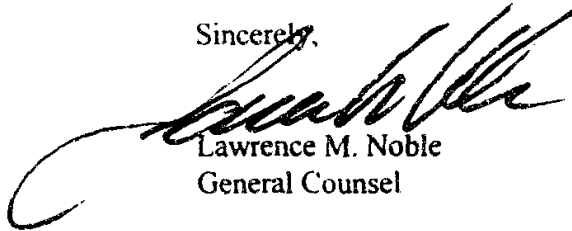
Based on your complaint, on June 17, 1997, the Commission found there was reason to believe that the National Republican Senatorial Committee and Stan Huckaby, as treasurer, ("the NRSC") had violated 2 U.S.C §§ 441a(f), 434(b), and 441b and 11 C.F.R. § 102.5, provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended and of the Commission's regulations, and instituted an investigation of this matter. After an investigation was conducted, and the General Counsel's Brief and Respondents' Reply Brief were considered, the Commission, on June 22, 1999, failed by a vote of 2-3 with one abstention to find probable cause to believe that the NRSC violated 2 U.S.C. § 441a(h) by making excessive in-kind contributions to Montanans for Rehberg. The Commission also failed, by votes of 3-3, to find probable cause to believe that the NRSC violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(b) by misreporting expenditures for media advertising aired in connection with the 1996 U.S. Senate election in Montana, and 2 U.S.C. §§ 441a(f) and 441b and 11 C.F.R. § 102.5 by making expenditures in connection with the 1996 U.S. Senate election in Montana from its non-federal accounts. Accordingly, the file in this matter was closed on June 22, 1999. A Statement of Reasons explaining the Commission's decisions will follow.

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This matter will become part of the public record within 30 days. The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. See 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(8).

If you have any questions, please contact Anne A. Weissenborn, the senior attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lawrence M. Noble", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Lawrence M. Noble
General Counsel

Enclosure
General Counsel's Report