

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

July 22, 2009

Jonathan S. Vogel, Treasurer **Democratic Congressional Campaign** Committee 430 South Capitol St. SE, 2nd Floor Washington, DC 20003

Response Due Date: August 26, 2009

Identification Number: C00000935

Reference:

March Monthly Report (2/1/09-2/28/09)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action. Additional information is needed for the following 7 items:

- 1. Schedule A of your report discloses in-kind contributions to your committee. Please be advised that the value of in-kind contributions must be added to the receipts and disbursements total in order to avoid either inflating or deflating the cash on hand amount, and itemized on the appropriate Schedules A and B. 11 CFR § 104.13(a)(2) Please amend your report by itemizing the in-kind contributions on Schedule B.
- 2. Schedule A supporting Line(s) 11(c) of your report discloses a receipt(s) from "Abercrombie for Congress", "Eddie Bernice Johnson for Congress" and "Solis for Congress" which requires further clarification. For example, if this activity represents a transfer of funds, please indicate "transfer" on Schedule A supporting Line 11(c) of your report. If this activity represents a reimbursement for services provided to this committee, please indicate this on Schedule A supporting Line 15 of your report. Please amend your report to clarify the type of activity this receipt(s) represents.
- 3. Schedule A supporting Line 17 of your report discloses a payment from "American List Counsel, Inc." It appears this receipt was for goods and/or services provided by your committee. Pursuant to Advisory Opinion 1979-18, the sale/purchase price paid to a political committee could involve the

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receipt of a contribution from a purchaser if the purchase price exceeds the "usual and normal charge". The term "usual and normal charge" for goods is defined as the price of those goods in the market from which they ordinarily would have been purchased at the time of the contribution. Examples of goods and services include equipment, supplies, personnel, advertising services, membership lists, and mailing lists. 11 CFR §100.52(d)(1) and (2)

Please clarify whether your committee assessed the usual and normal charge for the goods and/or services you provided and explain the steps your committee took in determining the amount charged. If your committee provided the goods and/or services at more than the usual and normal charge, the difference between the two is considered to be an inkind contribution received by your committee from a corporation and is prohibited subject to the limits set forth at 2 U.S.C. §441b(a)

- 4. Schedule B of your report discloses lump sum payments to "UBS Financial Services, Inc." and "Automatic Data Processing" for payroll purposes; however, you have not itemized the individuals who receive payment. Each person who provided services to the committee must be identified in a memo entry if the payments made through the payroll account to the ultimate payee exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Please amend your report by providing the name, address, date, amount, and purpose for such payments as required by 11 CFR §102.9(b) and clearly identify on the Schedule B, which payment each memo entry relates to.
- 5. Schedule B supporting Line 21(b) of your report discloses negative entries for the receipt of apparent credits during this or previous reporting periods. Please be advised that the receipt of offsets to operating expenditures should be disclosed on Schedule A supporting Line 15 of the Detailed Summary Page if the vendor wrote a refund/rebate check on its account. If a check was not written by the vendor, and your committee received a credit instead, a negative entry may be used, but further clarifying information is required to ensure that your committee did not receive a prohibited corporate in-kind contribution 11 CFR. §100.52 (d)(1). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.
- 6. Schedule D of your report discloses an apparent credit for a debt owed to "The Liaison Capitol Hill". Please provide further clarification regarding this credit.
- 7. Schedule E of your report discloses \$963,378.20 in memo entries which appear to be identical to memo entries already disclosed on your Amended

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12-Day Pre-General Report (10/1/08-10/15/08), received 5/5/09, Amended 30-Day Post-General Report (10/16/08-11/24/08), received 5/13/09 and Amended Year End Report (11/25/08-12/31/08), received 5/13/09. Please amend your report to remove any duplicate transactions or provide further clarifying information regarding these memo entries.

-Your report disclosed a category of financial activity that has been reflected on the wrong line of the Detailed Summary Page. Refunds of contributions to individuals should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule B, supporting Line 28(a) of the Detailed Summary Page. Please refer to the instructions for each line when determining the proper categorization(s) for your next filing.

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1141.

Sincerely

Daniel T. Buckley

Senior Campaign Finance Analyst

Reports Analysis Division