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July 20, 2005

BY ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Edward D. Ryan
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: Letter dated June 15, 2005, regarding 30 Day Post-General Report (10/14/04-11/22/04)

Dear Mr. Ryan:

On behalf my client, the Republican Party of Louisiana ("the Party"), I am writing in response to the Commission's letter dated June 15, 2005, regarding the Party's 30 Day Post-General Report (10/14/04-11/22/04).

First, the Commission asked the Party to classify receipts listed on Line 17 of the Post-General Report. On October 21, 2004, McCrery for Congress transferred \$6,000 in excess campaign funds to the Party. On November 17, 2004, The Billy Tauzin Congressional Committee transferred \$100,000 to the Party. The Federal Election Campaign Act permits principal candidate committees to transfer unlimited sums to state parties. See 2 U.S.C. 439a; 11 C.F.R. 113.2(c). Therefore, the Party properly listed the receipts on Line 17. For additional clarification, the Party designated each itemization as a "transfer of excess funds" on the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

Second, the Commission requested that the Party clarify its reporting of total receipts and transfers from its nonfederal account. The Party's amended Report lists:

- o A total of \$1,933,756.30 in calendar year-to-date receipts on Line 6(c).
- o A total of \$143,244.78 in calendar year-to-date transfers on Line 18(a).

Third, the Commission requested that the Party clarify its cash-on-hand reporting. The Party's first amendment to the Post General Report, which it filed on July 8, 2005, listed the proper cash-on-hand balances for this reporting period. Reports filed by the Party list:

- o A \$406,373.85 cash-on-hand balance for the close of the Pre-General reporting period (10/1/04-10/13/04).
- o A \$406,373.85 cash-on-hand balance for the beginning Post-General reporting period (10/14/04-11/22/04).

Fourth, the Commission asked that the Party to disclose the identification of individuals who contributed in excess of \$200 during 2004. The Party uses solicitation materials that request contributors' identifications, and administers follow-up requests for such information. The amended Post-General Report lists the addresses, occupations, and names of employers for several additional individual contributors.

Fifth, the Commission requested clarification of disbursements listed on Schedule B. A disbursement for a public communication that refers to a clearly identified candidate for federal office and that promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes any federal candidate constitutes a "federal election activity." See 2 U.S.C. 431(20)(A)(iii); 11 C.F.R. 100.24(b)(3). The payment must be listed on Schedule B supporting Line 30(b). See 2 U.S.C. 431(20); 11 C.F.R. 100.24; F.E.C. Instructions for Form 3X (Dec. 2004).

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Alternatively, payment for a public communication containing express advocacy - a message that advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate - must be disclosed as an independent expenditure on Schedule E supporting Line 24. See 2 U.S.C. 431(17)(A); 11 C.F.R. 100.22(a); F.E.C. Instructions for Form 3X (Dec. 2004). Disbursements for certain party activities, however, such as the distribution of slate cards and the dissemination of campaign materials by volunteers are exempt from the "expenditure" definition. See 11 C.F.R. 100.140, 100.147, and 100.149. The payments may be reported as "federal operating expenditures" on Schedule B supporting line 21(b). See 11 C.F.R. 100.140, 100.147, and 100.149; F.E.C. Instructions for Form 3X (Dec. 2004). See also Campaign Guide for Political Party Committees, at 38 (Aug. 2004).

The Party disclosed the following disbursements on Line 30(b) of its Post-General Report.

- o A \$114,671 payment to Franklin Direct Mail & Printing on October 15, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for an "FEA Slate Card." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.
- o A \$14,587 payment to Franklin Direct Mail & Printing on October 18, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.
- o A \$6,717.04 payment to Franklin Direct Mail & Printing on October 18, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.
- o A \$10,163.38 payment to Franklin Direct Mail & Printing on November 17, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.
- o A \$12,641.62 payment to Franklin Direct Mail & Printing on November 19, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.
- o A \$13,000 payment to the United States Postmaster on October 29, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.
- o A \$25,000 payment to the United States Postmaster on November 1, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.
- o A \$17,247.23 payment to the United States Postmaster on November 17, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.
- o A \$9,000 payment to the United States Postmaster on November 19, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.
- o A \$5,000 payment to the United States Postmaster on November 22, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

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o A \$102,000 payment to St. Raymond Communications on October 15, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o An \$18,000 payment to GCR on October 21, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Automated Phone Calls." The payment qualified as an independent expenditure in support of George W. Bush, David Vitter, Bobby Jindal, Art Schwertz, Billy Tauzin III, Jim McCrery, Rodney Alexander, Richard Baker, and Charles Boustany. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 24 of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$16,311.14 payment to AT&T on October 29, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Phone Banking." The payment qualified as an independent expenditure in support of George W. Bush, David Vitter, Bobby Jindal, Art Schwertz, Billy Tauzin III, Jim McCrery, Rodney Alexander, Richard Baker, and Charles Boustany. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 24 of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$15,000 payment to Watson Voice and Data on November 1, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Automated Phone Calls." The payment qualified as an independent expenditure in support of George W. Bush, David Vitter, Bobby Jindal, Art Schwertz, Billy Tauzin III, Jim McCrery, Rodney Alexander, Richard Baker, and Charles Boustany. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 24 of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$14,450 payment to Giles & Associates on October 18, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$15,780 payment to Giles & Associates on October 27, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$6,471 payment to Giles & Associates on November 2, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$4,279 payment to Giles & Associates on November 10, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$45,000 payment to Giles & Associates on November 19, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$9,427.52 payment to Giles & Associates on November 19, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$93,288.79 payment to Targeted Creative Communication on October 20, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$36,200.15 payment to Targeted Creative Communication on October 26, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the

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disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$500 payment to Postage By Phone on November 10, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$625 payment to Courtney Communications on November 1, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for an "FEA Recorded Phone Message." The payment qualified as an independent expenditure in support of George W. Bush, David Vitter, Bobby Jindal, Art Schwertz, Billy Tauzin III, Jim McCrery, Rodney Alexander, Richard Baker, and Charles Boustany. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 24 of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$113,750 payment to CAMCO Consulting on October 21, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$146,250 payment to CAMCO Consulting on October 27, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

o A \$6,033.45 payment to CAMCO Consulting on October 14, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for "FEA Volunteer Mass Mail." The payment qualified as an exempt volunteer activity. Therefore, the Party disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the accompanying amendment to the Post-General Report.

Sixth, the Commission requested a clarification of the terms "Admin - Professional Services, FEA Consulting, FEA Professional Services, Fundraising Expense, Office Expense, and Professional Services" which the Party used to describe disbursements listed on Schedule B and Schedule H4. In addition to disbursements that the Party has clarified on previous amendments, this report lists:

o A \$204.75 payment to City Club @ River Ranch on October 14, 2004 for a "Fundraising Expense." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for a "Food/Drink Expense for Fundraiser." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$2,050.29 payment to Direct Mail Systems, Inc. on November 3, 2004 for a "Fundraising Expense." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for a "State Fundraising Solicitation." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$169.02 payment to Connor Best on October 26, 2004 for an "Office Expense." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for "Clerical Services." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$362 payment to Ryan Booth on November 1, 2004 for an "Office Expense." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for an "Office Telephone Expense." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$223.48 payment to Charles Buckels on November 3, 2004 for a "Fundraising Expense." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for "Gas, Meals and Lodging on Fundraising Trip." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$526.59 payment to Hilton Lafayette on October 19, 2004 for a "Fundraising Expense." The Party's accompanying

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amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for "Food/Drink Expense for Fundraiser." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$300 payment to Office Depot on October 26, 2004 for an "Office Expense." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for "Generic Office Supplies." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$500 payment to Office Depot on October 26, 2004 for an "Office Expense." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for "Generic Office Supplies." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$300 payment to Office Depot on October 26, 2004 for an "Office Expense." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for "Generic Office Supplies." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$204.53 payment to SSW and Associates on November 10, 2004 for an "Office Expense." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was a "Grassroots Seminar." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$5,000 payment to Pi Enterprises, LLC on October 29, 2004 for "FEA Professional Services." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for "Strategy/Administrative Services." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$3,173.55 payment to Pi Enterprises on November 17, 2004 for "FEA Consulting." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for "Strategy/Administrative Services." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$500 payment to Landon Allen on November 10, 2004 for "FEA Professional Services." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for a "Minority Outreach Coordinator." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o A \$300 payment to Landon Allen on November 18, 2004 for "FEA Professional Services." The Party's accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for a "Minority Outreach Coordinator." This disbursement was not on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

Seventh, the Commission has asked the Party to clarify whether it used transfers of funds from National party committees to make payments for "FEA Bumperstickers and FEA Yard Signs." The Party did not use funds received from transfers by the National Republican Congressional Committee, National Republican Senatorial Committee, or Republican National Committee to pay for these disbursements.

Eighth, the Commission has asked the Party to clarify all expenditures made for a "Facility Rental and Forum Expenses" on Schedule B and Schedule H of the original Post-General Report. In addition to disbursements that the Party has clarified on previous amendments, the Party explained the following payments.

o On Schedule B, the Party's report listed a \$2,009 payment to Digital FX on October 27, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was listed a "Forum Expense[]." In response to the Commission's request, the Party has amended the purpose of disbursement to clarify that the payment was for a Video Recording Service. The Party did not pay for the service on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

o On Schedule H4, the Party's report listed a \$500 payment to Lod Cook Conference Center on October 21, 2004. The

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purpose of the disbursement was listed as a "Facility Rental." In response to the Commission's request, the Party has amended the purpose of disbursement to clarify that the payment was for a "State Committee Meeting." The Party did not rent the facility on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate.

Finally, the Party amended the Post-General Report by disclosing a contribution from the Union Pacific Corp. Political Action Committee on Line 11(c) and receipts from the Republican Women's Club of Jefferson and the Mississippi Republican Party on Line 12. Because of a technical complication with campaign finance software, the Party is unable to list itemizations regarding the Slidell Republican Women's Club on Line 12.

If you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 756-8003.

Sincerely,

Bobby R. Burchfield
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