



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

June 3, 2005

John Lapp, Treasurer
Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
430 South Capitol Street SE, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20003

**Response Due Date:
July 5, 2005**

Identification Number: C00000935

Reference: Year End Report (11/23/04-12/31/04)

Dear Mr. Lapp:

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. **An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above.** An itemization of the information needed follows:

- The beginning cash balance of this report should equal the ending balance of your 30 Day Post-General Report. Please clarify this discrepancy and amend any subsequent report(s) that may be affected by this correction.
- The totals listed on Lines 6(c), 7, 11(a)(iii), 11(d), 19, 20, 21(b), 21(c), 31 and 32 Column B of the Summary and Detailed Summary Page(s) appear to be incorrect. Please be advised that you should add the "Calendar Year-to-Date" total from your previous report to the current "Total This Period" figure from Column A to derive the correct Column B totals. Please amend your report and any subsequent reports that may be affected by this correction.
- Schedule E discloses independent expenditures on behalf of a federal candidate(s). Schedule F of this report discloses coordinated expenditures on behalf of the same candidate(s). Under 2 U.S.C. §431(17), an "independent expenditure" is defined as:

... an expenditure by a person expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate; and that is not made in concert or cooperation with or at the request or suggestion of such candidate, the candidate's authorized committee, or their agents, or a political party committee or its agents.

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Further, 11 CFR §109.21 outlines the factors which define a coordinated communication. Please verify that the independent expenditures made by your Committee in support of **John Barrow, Matt Connealy, and Willie Landry Mount** meet the definition of and were properly categorized as independent expenditures. If necessary, amend your reports to disclose the aforementioned transactions as in-kind contributions (Schedule B supporting Line 23 of the Detailed Summary Page) or coordinated expenditures (Schedule F supporting Line 25 of the Detailed Summary Page).

If the reclassification of these expenditures as in-kind contributions results in excessive contributions, the Commission recommends that you notify the candidate(s) and request a refund of the amount in excess of \$5,000 per election. If the reclassification of these expenditures as coordinated expenditures results in your committee exceeding the limitations under 2 U.S.C. §441a(d), the Commission recommends that you notify the candidate(s) and request a refund of the amount in excess of the 2004 expenditure limitation.

Please inform the Commission of any corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your refund request(s) sent to the candidate(s). In addition, any refunds should be disclosed on Schedule A supporting Line 16 of your next report.

-Please clarify all expenditures made for "catering," "postage," "fundraising services," "occupancy," "events/meetings," "publications," "printing," "research services," and "strategic/political consulting services" on Schedule(s) B. If a portion or all of these expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified federal candidates, this amount should be disclosed on Schedules B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25 and include the amount, name, address and office sought by each candidate. 11 CFR §§104.3(b) and 106.1

Unlike previous election cycles, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.** Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. 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.

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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) 694-1142.

Sincerely,

Andrea Needles

Andrea Needles
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

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