

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

July 16, 2014

## ANTHONY J. FERATE, TREASURER OKLAHOMA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 4031 N. LINCOLN BOULEVARD OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105

Response Due Date 08/20/2014

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00167213

## REFERENCE: APRIL MONTHLY REPORT (03/01/2014 - 03/31/2014)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report 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 <u>3</u> item(s):

**1.** Your report discloses a negative ending cash balance of \$10,852.52. This suggests that you have overdrawn your account, made a mathematical error, or incurred a debt. If your committee has incurred a debt or obligation, please itemize this debt on Schedule D, show a zero balance on Line 8 of the Summary Page and include the amount on Line 10. Please file an amendment to your report to accurately disclose your financial activities. (2 U.S.C. § 434(b) (8) and 11 CFR § 104.3(d))

2. The Detailed Summary Page, on Line 18(a) Column A of your February Monthly (1/1/14-1/31/14), March Monthly (2/1/14-2/28/14), and April Monthly (3/1/14-3/31/14) Reports combined, discloses \$41,786.04 in transfers from the non-federal account for allocated activity for the reporting period. However, Line 21 (a)(ii) Column A discloses \$31,325.68 as the non-federal share for allocated activity for the reporting period. While the non-federal account is permitted to transfer funds to the federal account for allocated activity, transfers for allocated activity must be made within a 70-day time period: no more than 10 days before or 60 days after the payment to the vendor. (11 CFR §106.6(e)(2) and 106.7(f)(2)) Please clarify the nature of the transfers-in from the non-federal account.

The Commission recommends that you immediately transfer back to the non-federal account, the total excessive amount which was received by your

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federal account outside the 70-day time period. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

**3.** Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "PAYROLL," and "PAYROLL TAXES/FEES." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity (FEA) or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election. If this is not the case, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding any improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

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.

<u>Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports)</u> 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) 694-1148.

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Sincerely,

Quy Vuong Senior Campaign Finance Analyst Reports Analysis Division

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