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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

March 19, 2008

Philip Roy Jr., Treasurer
Maine Republican Party
76 Silver Street
Waterville, ME 04901

Response Due Date:
April 18, 2008

Identification Number: C00003111

Reference: Year-End Report (7/01/07 – 12/31/07)

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 13 items:

1. The totals listed on Lines 21(a)(i), 21(a)(ii), 21(b), and 32, Column B of the 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.

2. Schedule D discloses $9,187.85 in payment(s) this period to "FLS Connect"; however, there are $5,784.30 in payments reflected on your disbursement schedules. Please amend your report to clarify this discrepancy.

3. On Schedule D of your previous report, you disclosed a debt(s) owed to "Citicorp Vendor Finance Inc." and "Aristotle International, Inc.". This obligation(s), however, has been omitted from this report. Please amend your report to include this debt(s) on Schedule D and Line 10 of the Summary Page. All debts and obligations must be disclosed until extinguished. 11 CFR §104.11

4. Commission Regulations require that a committee disclose the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of $200 in a calendar year. (11 CFR §104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is

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defined as the **full name**, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. (11 CFR §100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

You must provide the missing information, or if you are unable to do so, you must demonstrate that "best efforts" have been used to obtain the information. To establish "best efforts," you must provide the Commission with a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. Establishing "best efforts" is a three-fold process.

First, your original solicitation must include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor information and must inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information. (11 CFR §104.7(b)(1))

Second, if the information is not provided, you must make one follow-up, stand alone effort to obtain this information, regardless of whether the contribution(s) was solicited or not. This effort must occur no later than 30 days after receipt of the contribution and may be in the form of a written request or an oral request documented in writing. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(2)) The request must:

- clearly ask for the missing information, without soliciting a contribution;
- inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information, and
- if the request is written, include a pre-addressed post card or return envelope.

Third, if you receive contributor information after the contribution(s) has been reported, you shall either a) file with your next regularly scheduled report, an amended memo Schedule A listing all the contributions for which additional information was received; or b) file on or before your next regularly scheduled reporting date, amendments to the report(s) originally disclosing the contribution(s). (11 CFR §104.7(b)(4))

Please provide the missing information or a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

5. The identification of each contributor, including an adequate occupation and name of employer for each, must be provided if the person has contributed in excess of $200 in the aggregate during the calendar year. Please amend Schedule A supporting Line 11(a)(i) for each entry inadequately identified as "Fed Gov.t", "Consultant", "Requested Employer

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Information", "Information Requested", "Requested Information" and "N/A".

6. Your Year-End Report (7/01/07 – 12/31/07) does not disclose any payments for salary or wages on Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. 11 CFR §100.24 defines as Federal Election Activity, services provided by an employee of a State, district or local party committee who spends more than 25 percent of their time during that month on activities in connection with a Federal election. You are advised that payments for salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25 percent of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must be made with Federal funds only. Please provide clarification regarding the lack of payments for salary and wages disclosed by your committee.

7. Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Direct Mail September Mailer", "Photography – First Lady Event" and "Telemarketing". Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(1), expenditures for public communications (as defined by 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any such candidate for Federal office must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Only federal funds may be used.

Further, expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s). However, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.

If this activity was categorized incorrectly, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for this activity back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

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8. Schedule H4 discloses 100% non-federal activity. Please be advised that by definition, this activity does not qualify as an expense(s) that can be allocated between your federal and non-federal accounts. If the disbursements were for operating expenditures paid for with 100% federal funds, they should be itemized on Schedule B for Line 21(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. If these expenses were permissibly paid for with 100% non-federal funds, they should not be disclosed on Schedule H4. Further, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for any portion of this activity is not permissible and must be returned. 11 CFR §102.5(a)(1)(i) Please amend your report to clarify this discrepancy.

9. On Schedule H4, your allocated activity or event year-to-date total calculations for the Administrative category are incorrect. Allocated activity or event year-to-date totals for administrative, voter drive, exempt activity costs and expenses for public communications made by PACs referencing only political parties are derived by aggregating all disbursements during the calendar year for each separate category. Allocated activity or event year-to-date totals for fundraising and direct candidate support activities are derived by aggregating all disbursements during the calendar year <u>within a specific event</u>. These should be calculated by adding the latest disbursement for a category or event to the previous event year-to-date total for that category or event. This running event year-to-date total should be disclosed after each disbursement is listed. Please amend your report by providing the correct event year-to-date totals.

10. Schedule H4 discloses payments made to credit card companies for shared federal and non-federal activity. Please be advised that these payments must identify as memo entries, **the original vendors** from which you have purchased an item or service <u>regardless of the amount</u>. Please amend your report by providing the name and mailing address of the original vendor, along with the date, amount and purpose of each expenditure. 11 CFR §§104.10 and 104.17

11. Schedule H4 of your report discloses disbursements for the Administrative category which use a ratio that is inconsistent with the ratio disclosed on Schedule H1. The fixed ratio for the allocation of administrative, generic voter drive and exempt activity expenses by State, district and local party committees <u>should be the same for the full two-year election cycle</u> unless a scheduled Special election would change this ratio. Please amend your report to clarify this apparent discrepancy.

Please note that if your non-federal account has overpaid your federal account because of this miscalculation, it will be necessary to immediately transfer these funds back to the non-federal account. While the

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Commission may take further legal action concerning any impermissible overpayments by the non-federal account, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

12. Schedule H4 discloses reimbursements to individuals totaling $1,046.62. However, the sum of the memo entries provided identifying the original vendors associated with these payments total $1,209.91. Please amend your report to clarify this discrepancy.

13. Please clarify all expenditures made for "Catering for special event", "Consulting for Special Event", "Donation for use of facilities", "Event Tickets", "Facility Rental" and "Facility Rental Convention Expense" on Schedule H4. 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

Alternatively, if the payment(s) on Schedule H4 is associated with fundraising activity conducted for your committee's federal and non-federal accounts, it must be allocated according to the funds received method and the ratio reflected on Schedule H2. Further, it must be categorized as a fundraising activity on Schedule H4. Please provide clarifying information regarding the nature of this transaction(s) and amend your report(s) as appropriate.

-Your report disclosed a category of financial activity that has been reflected on the wrong line of the Detailed Summary Page. Transfers from affiliated/other party committees should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule A, supporting Line 12 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

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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) 694-1206.

Sincerely,

Julie Fleming

Julie Fleming
Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

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