

Complaint Description

File a Formal Complaint - Don Long

[Don Long](#) reported (Fri, 19 Oct at 1:00 PM) via Portal Meta

The group Ag Power Users of Grant County has been contributing to Grant County PUD Commissioner elections since 2010. Data gathered from the Public Disclosure Commission's website at <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/campaign-explorer> shows the following contributions:

Grant County PUD Commissioner Elections		
Campaign contributions made by Ag Power Users of Grant County		
2010	Bob Bernd	\$500
2010	Patti Paris	\$500
2010	Dale Walker	\$500
2010	Richard Callahan	\$500
2010	Brandt Castleton	\$500
2014	Larry Schaapman	\$1,000
2018	Nelson Cox	\$27,902
2018	Judy Wilson	\$27,902

According to the Public Disclosure Commission's website at <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/more-ways-to-follow-the-money/committees/continuing?category=Committees>, a Continuing Political Committee is "any committee that plans to continue for more than one election season, such as business or labor committees." This committee has obviously continued for more than one election season and has made substantial contributions in PUD Commissioner elections. In 2010, they contributed \$2,500, in 2014 they contributed \$1,000 and so far in 2018 they have contributed \$55,804.

I wondered who these people are? Trying to research the PDC, I do not find them listed. Looking at Nelson Cox and Judy Wilson C3 filings, even the Ag Power Users mailing address is mysterious. They use the Moses Lake Comfort Inn motel as their address.

In accordance with RCW 42.17A.005(15) and RCW 42.17A.225 Ag Power Users of Grant County should be found to be in violation of Washington State

law and should be required to disclose all contributions made to their group beginning in 2010.

[Don Long](#) replied (Mon, 29 Oct at 11:20 AM)

to : pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Here's additional information (see attached spreadsheet) on contributions made by Ag Power Users of Grant County to candidates from 2010 to 2018. My initial complaint only listed contributions to Grant County PUD Commissioner campaigns. Since then I've researched the Open Data database and found that they have also contributed to campaigns for Governor, Public Lands Commissioner, and State Representative. Note that the name is mis-spelled in the database a few times. Search as "contributor_name starts with: ag power" to find all occurrences.

I would also like to amend my complaint to include the following additional RCW subsections: 42.17A.005(40), 42.17A.205, 42.17A.210, 42.17A.220, 42.17A.235, and 42.17A.240.

Thank you,
Don Long

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

Washington State laws and regulations, specifically RCW 42.17A are intended to allow voters to "follow the money", so that they can be completely informed on who is supporting a candidate for public office. Voters are unable to determine who financed campaign contributions by Ag Power Users of Grant County and therefore are not able to be fully informed on who to vote for in Grant County PUD Commissioner elections.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.

See description below for contributions reported by candidates for Grant County PUD Commissioner.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Manager
Comfort Suites

1700 E. Kittleson Road, Moses Lake, WA 98837

Phone: (509) 765-3731

Complaint Certification:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.