



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112
Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

September 15, 2017

davids@steebenergy.com

David Steeb

Subject: Complaint regarding Greg Fazzio, PDC Case 24443

Dear Mr. Steeb:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on August 11, 2017. Your complaint alleged that Greg Fazzio, a candidate for Woodinville Water Commissioner, may have violated RCW 42.17A.335 by sponsoring false political advertising. Your complaint alleged that some of Mr. Fazzio's signs show him as a candidate for Position 1 and other signs show him as a candidate for Position 2. You stated that Mr. Fazzio's signs are confusing, could cause errors in how the public votes, and could harm the integrity of the election.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, and as a result of staff's initial review, we found the following:

- RCW 42.17A.335 prohibits a person from sponsoring with actual malice political advertising or an electioneering communication that includes a statement constituting libel or defamation per se that is a false statement of material fact about a candidate for public office. This prohibition does not apply to statements made by a candidate about himself or herself because a person cannot defame himself or herself.
- While it appears that some of Mr. Fazzio's signs indicated he is a candidate for Position 2 instead of Position 1, this error is not a false statement of material fact about another candidate. Therefore, Mr. Fazzio's signs do not constitute false political advertising, and RCW 42.17A.335 does not apply to your concerns.
- Mr. Fazio has acknowledged that a mistake was made by the sign company, and he has taken steps to correct the signs. He stated that he had no intention of confusing anybody or harming the integrity of the election, and said this was an honest mistake.

Based on these initial findings, staff has determined that there is no reason to believe Greg Fazzio has violated RCW 42.17A.335, and no further action is required.

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The PDC has closed the matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,


Philip E. Stutzman
Sr. Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,


Peter Lavallec
Executive Director

cc: Greg Fazzio