



Washington State Legislature

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Bob Ferguson
Washington State Attorney General
1125 Washington Street SE
PO Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

The Honorable Kim Wyman
Washington State Secretary of State
PO Box 40220
Olympia, WA 98504-0220

Washington Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way #206
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

Dear Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Wyman and Commissioners:

A recent consumer complaint filed with Attorney General's office (dated 2/16/16) by fire fighters, teachers, LGBT and women's health advocates raises questions about possible violations of Washington rules governing non-profit organizations and political activity by the Freedom Foundation, a non-profit charity registered with the State of Washington.

As a non-profit organization registered with the State of Washington, the Freedom Foundation is exempt from paying certain business and occupation (B&O) and other state taxes as long as it is in compliance.

Based on the examples provided in the attached documents, it appears the Freedom Foundation has grown increasingly partisan and has directly intervened in political campaigns in violation of state rules.

We would like to know:

1. Do the Freedom Foundation's activities disqualify it from tax exemptions, such as under RCW 82.04.3651(2)(c), which states that no organization shall qualify as a non-profit if its activities include a "substantial amount of political activity"?
2. Do the Freedom Foundation's activities qualify as in-kind contributions to candidates and/or political parties, and do they, or the beneficiaries of their actions, violate Washington Public Disclosure Commission rules regarding political activity?

3. Is the Freedom Foundation at risk of violating any other state rules regarding non-profit activity?

We appreciate your prompt attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jessyn Farrell
46th Legislative District



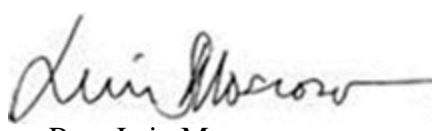
Sen. Pramila Jayapal
37th Legislative District



Sen. John McCoy
38th Legislative District



Rep. Tana Senn
41st Legislative District



Rep. Luis Moscoso
1st Legislative District



Rep. Noel Frame
36th Legislative District



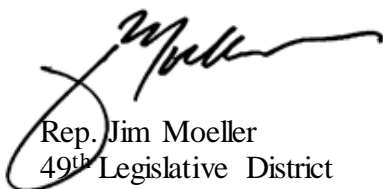
Rep. Gerry Pollet
46th Legislative District



Rep. Mike Sells
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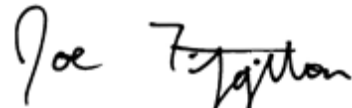
Rep. Sam Hunt
22nd Legislative District



Rep. Jim Moeller
49th Legislative District



Rep. Patty Kuderer
48th Legislative District



Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon
34th Legislative District



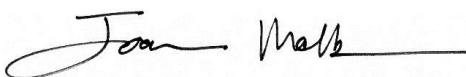
Rep. Laurie Jinkins
27th Legislative District



Sen. Marko Liias
21st Legislative District



Rep. Sherry Appleton
23rd Legislative District



Rep. Joan McBride
48th Legislative District



Rep. Strom Peterson
21st Legislative District



Rep. Steve Kirby
29th Legislative District



Sen. Karen Keiser
33rd Legislative District



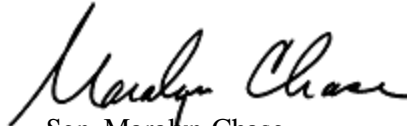
Rep. Jeff Morris
40th Legislative District



Sen. Annette Cleveland
49th Legislative District



Rep. Mia Gregerson
33rd Legislative District



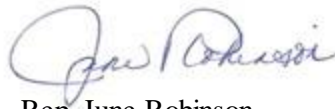
Sen. Maralyn Chase
32nd Legislative District



Rep. Marcus Riccelli
3rd Legislative District



Rep. Jake Fey
27th Legislative District



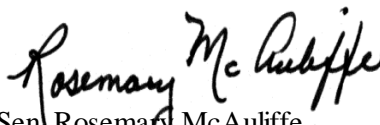
Rep. June Robinson
38th Legislative District



Rep. Judy Clibborn
41st Legislative District



Rep. Derek Stanford
1st Legislative District



Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe
1st Legislative District



Sen. David Frockt
46th Legislative District