

Glenda Wiles

From: Archie Thomas <archie5463@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2018 4:41 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Dark money comment and request
Attachments: dark money commissionletter 2018.pdf, Darkmoney docs 8-10-2018.pdf

Please find attached 2 PDF documents regarding recent dark money actions by the commission.
best Regards
Archie L Thomas
406-381-7251

69 pages
not
printed
out

citizens
can go to
google +
print out
from
"Source of green
decay money"

document
also saved
under public
correspondence
9/23/18

September 10, 2018

Open letter to Ravalli County Commissioners

Please find attached 69 pages downloaded from a Google search "source of green decoy report". The "green decoy report" is the commissioners' basis to request the Montana attorney general and governor to investigate dark money funding of various conservation organizations.

The attached documentation, includes some duplication, is by no means complete, comprehensive or verified but rather the results of a short Internet search that more than peaked my interest. I would hope you would also find it of interest. The following is a partial outline highlighting key points of attached search content.

Source of funding/report;

Public front: Green Decoys, Big Green Radicals.com, MT Outdoor Coalition and advisory board member Kieth Kubista

1st sub level public project name: Environmental Policy Alliance, contact Banks Woodruff

2nd umbrella level: Center for Consumer Freedom

Other names used "Center for Organizational Research and Education" & "Guest Choice Network"
3rd final controlling level Berman & Co. A Washington DC marketing and lobbying firm.

Possible sources of nontransparent (dark money) report funding:

Milwaukee based Bradley Foundation, Donors Trust, Donors Capital Fund, Employment Policies Institute, Cola-Cola Co., Cargill, Inc., Monsanto, Tyson Foods, Outback Steakhouse, Wendy's, Brinker's International, Dean Foods and other undisclosed funds directed through sub levels 1, 2 & 3 listed above

Summary of other front groups organized and or funded under Berman & Co and Center for Consumer Freedom;

Attached documents list at least 49 front groups controlled by Berman & Co owned by Richard Berman and his wife employing 28 people with annually estimated gross income of 10 million. These front groups run the attack dog website gamut of opposing minimum wage campaigns, keeping restaurant workers wages low, block legislation on food safety, secondhand cigarette smoke, drunk driving and multiple other corporate dark money disinformation campaigns.

Honorable mention highlights, details about and quote from Richard Berman of Berman & Co.

- 60 minutes TV has labeled Mr Berman "Mr. Evil"
- In March of 2015, Will Coggins employed by Berman & Co placed nearly identical opinion pieces in Montana, Nevada, and Utah arguing strongly in favor of transfer of public lands to the states.
- MT Coalition's web site doesn't define how it is funded or any connection to Center for Organizational Research and Education yet similar green decoy reports and links are on both websites.
- Richard Berman quote "People always ask me one question all the time: How do I know that I won't be found out as a supporter of what you're doing? We run all this stuff through nonprofit organizations that are insulated from having to disclose donors. There is total anonymity."

As a resident of Ravalli county and based on the attached documentation I request the commission implement the following;

1. Amend Ravalli county's request for an dark money investigation by the attorney general and governor to include all the organizations responsible for funding and producing the "green decoy report" including the Montana Outdoor Coalition.
2. The enclosed documentation be forwarded to both the attorney general and the governor.

3. The attached documentation be entered into the public record as part of public comment regarding Ravalli county's requested attorney general and governor dark money investigations.

Please note,

1. It is not OK for the county government to become the investigative arm of MT Outdoor Coalition in the name of Ravalli County because the commissioners like, condone or ignore red dark money, agree with Keith Kubista, Theresa Manzella or any other member of the public.
2. It is not OK for the commissioners to investigate the credibility of opposition groups claiming dark money interference when basing your allegations solely on reports commissioned and presented by MT Outdoor Coalition and funded by a hidden Washington DC dark money.
3. It is not OK to list only conservation groups who oppose you, argue over the terms "any" and "all" while claiming this not about the public WSA debate. This discussion is disingenuous at best, plum silly at least or down right dumb sounding for most of the public.
4. Without including the "green decoy" organization in your request any investigation conclusions will be completely illegitimate and a waste of county/state resources.
5. The investigation request is a complete over reach of county function, a nonproductive self generated public dispute, corrosive to the function of local government and public discourse in addition to a waste of county/state resources.

In conclusion I simply ask this commission focus on enabling inclusive community dialogue and day to day county business. Stop staging political theater for the state and national Republican party candidates. They use you to carry their water bucket while ignoring Ravalli county's thirst for more funds, meaningful public dialogues or ways to better serve the common public good.

Bests Regards

Merry Schrumpf

Archie L Thomas, 406-381-7251