

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

FILED SEEC

In the Matter of a Complaint by  
William Holden, Trumbull

2008 File No. 2007-369  
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AGREEMENT CONTAINING CONSENT ORDER AND  
PAYMENT OF A CIVIL PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF  
CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 9-613

This agreement, by and between The Wright Companies, Inc. (hereinafter, the "Respondent") and the authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission is entered into in accordance with section 9-7b-54 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and Connecticut General Statutes § 4-177 (c). In accordance herewith, the parties agree that:

1. Complainant alleged that the Trumbull Democratic Town Committee received impermissible business entity contributions in connection with a golf tournament fundraiser held by that Committee.
2. Connecticut General Statutes § 9-601(8) defines the term "Business Entity" as, *inter alia*, a stock corporation. In accordance with that definition, the Respondent insurance company qualifies as a business entity.
3. Business entities are prohibited from making contributions that promote the success of any political party. Specifically, Connecticut General Statutes § 9-613 (a) provides in relevant part that "[n]o business entity shall make any . . . contributions or expenditures that promote the success or defeat of any political party."
4. Business entities are, however, permitted to make certain purchases of advertising space without causing a violation of General Statutes § 9-613(a). For example, Connecticut General Statutes § 9-601a(10)(B) states that the following is not a "contribution":

The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the purchaser, in a program for a fund-raising affair sponsored by the town committee, provided the cumulative purchase of such space does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars for any single town committee in any calendar year if the purchaser is a business entity . . .

5. The Respondent purchased advertising space in program booklets for bona fide fundraising affairs held by and benefiting the Trumbull Democratic Town Committee on July 19, 2007 and October 8, 2007, at a cost of \$250 per event, for a total of \$500.

6. Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-601a(10)(B), the Respondent's initial \$250 purchase of advertising space was not a "contribution" and thus, did not constitute a violation General Statutes § 9-613(a).
7. The Respondent did, however, violate section 9-613(a) when it made its second \$250 purchase of advertising space from the Trumbull Democratic Committee. As noted herein, in a calendar year, a business entity may not purchase more than \$250 worth of ad space from a town committee for an ad that is to appear in that committee's fundraising affair program book. Because the Respondent's second ad space purchase from the Trumbull Democratic Town Committee caused it to exceed its \$250 maximum for 2007, it made an impermissible business entity contribution to that committee in the amount of \$250.
8. The Respondent maintains that the excessive ad purchase and resulting business entity contribution was unintentional. The Commission finds no evidence to the contrary.
9. The Respondent admits all jurisdictional facts and agrees that this Agreement and Order shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and Order entered after a full hearing and shall become final when adopted by the Commission. The Respondent shall receive a copy hereof as provided in section 9-7b-56 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
10. It is understood and agreed that this agreement will be submitted to the Commission at its next meeting and, if it is not accepted by the Commission, it is withdrawn by the Respondent and may not be used as an admission in any subsequent hearing, if the same becomes necessary.
11. The Respondent waives:
  - (a) Any further procedural steps;
  - (b) The requirement that the Commission's decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated; and
  - (c) All rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the Order entered into pursuant to this agreement.
12. Upon the Respondent's compliance with the Order hereinafter stated, the Commission shall not initiate any further proceedings against the Respondent with respect to this matter.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent shall remit a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) on or before January 16, 2008.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Respondent shall henceforth strictly comply with the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes § 9-613.

For the State of Connecticut

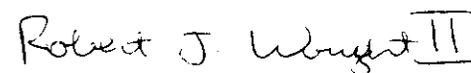
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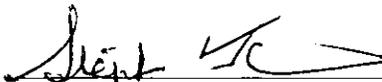
Joan M. Andrews, Esq.  
Director of Legal Affairs and Enforcement,  
and Authorized Representative  
of the State Elections  
Enforcement Commission  
20 Trinity Street  
Hartford, Connecticut

The Respondent,

Dated: 01/21/08

Print Name:   
Robert J. Wright II  
Authorized Representative  
The Wright Companies, Inc.  
105 Technology Drive, Suite 2D  
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008 at Hartford, Connecticut by vote of the Commission.



Stephen Cashman, Chairman  
By Order of the Commission