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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by  
Charles W. Kelly, Town of Salisbury

File No. 2010-052

**AGREEMENT CONTAINING HENCEFORTH ORDER  
FOR VIOLATION  
OF CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 9-621 (a)**

This agreement, by and between Peter L. Becket of Salisbury, Connecticut ("the Respondent"), Treasurer of the Salisbury Republican Town Committee ("the SRTC") 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 General Statutes § 4-177 (c). In accordance herewith, the parties agree that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Complainant was the chairman of the Salisbury Democratic Town Committee.
2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was the treasurer of the SRTC.
3. At all times relevant hereto, Roberta Willis was both a candidate for public office seeking nomination or election to the 64<sup>th</sup> district of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly, a district including Salisbury, as well as the serving representative for such district ("the candidate").
4. The Complainant filed this complaint against the Respondent, alleging that the Respondent violated General Statutes § 9-621 (a) by making an expenditure for an advertisement in a newspaper inviting voters to the SRTC's monthly meeting for a discussion regarding the voting record of Representative Willis.
5. On or about April 15<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Respondent made an expenditure for an advertisement published in the *Lakeville Journal* ("the communication").
6. The communication read as follows:

***Salisbury Republican Town Committee***

***Fact:*** Connecticut state debt is over \$65,000,000,000 and growing under the Democratic legislature – that's a debt burden of \$17,500 for every man, woman and child in Connecticut.

*The SRTC invites Representative Willis to defend her ten year voting record and explain why in those same ten years CT went from a budget surplus to a \$8.6 billion 2-year budget deficit.*

*All voters are invited to attend our Monthly Meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall.*

7. The SRTC's campaign finance disclosure statement, SEEC Form 20, for the period covering April 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010, reports an expenditure to the *Lakeville Journal* for an advertisement in the amount of \$533.72, paid on May 7, 2010.

8. General Statutes § 9-601b (a) (1) defines "expenditure" to include:

Any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or anything of value, when made for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election, or election, of any person....

9. General Statutes § 9-621 (a), provides in pertinent part:

[N]o candidate or committee shall make or incur any expenditure .... for any written, typed or other printed communication .... which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election .... unless such communication bears upon its face .... the words "paid for by" and the following: .... in the case of a party committee, the name of the committee ....

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10. Pursuant to § 9-621 (a), the Respondent was prohibited from making on behalf of the Committee any expenditure for printed communications which promoted the success or defeat of any candidate unless those communications contained the proper attribution. See, General Statutes §§ 9-606 (a) and 9-707 (a) (providing that the treasurer of a party is responsible for authorizing and making expenditures on behalf of a committee).

11. The Respondent states that the communication did not take a position on the candidate's nomination or election.

12. The Commission concludes that, under § 9-621 (a), the communication promoted the defeat of the candidate and, accordingly, that the communication should have contained an attribution.

13. It is concluded that, although the sponsorship of the communication is clear, the Respondent violated § 9-621 (a) by making an expenditure for the communication that failed to include the required "paid for by" before Salisbury Republican Town Committee.

14. 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. Respondent shall receive a copy hereof as provided in Section 9-7b-56 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

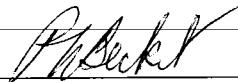
15. It is understood and agreed that this Agreement will be submitted to the Commission at its next meeting and, if it is not accepted by the Commission, it is withdrawn by the Respondent and may not be used as an admission in any subsequent hearing, if the same becomes necessary.
16. The Respondent waives: any further procedural steps; the requirement that the Commission's decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated; and all rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the Order entered into pursuant to this Agreement.
17. Upon the Respondent's compliance with the Order hereinafter stated, the Commission shall not initiate any further proceedings against him pertaining to this matter.

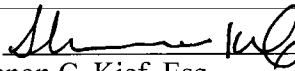
**ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent, Peter L. Becket, will henceforth strictly comply with the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes § 9-621.

The Respondent:

For the State of Connecticut:


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter L. Becket  
83 Sharon Road, P.O. Box 589  
Lakeville, CT

BY:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shannon C. Kief, Esq.  
Legal Program Director  
& Authorized Representative of the  
State Elections Enforcement Commission  
20 Trinity St., Suite 101  
Hartford, CT

Dated: 1/25/2011

Dated: 1/26/11

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February of 2011 at Hartford, Connecticut

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman  
By Order of the Commission