



STATE OF MAINE  
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS  
AND ELECTION PRACTICES  
135 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0135

October 2, 2009

Katherine R. Knox  
Bernstein Shur  
PO Box 9729  
Portland, ME 04104-5029

Dear Ms. Knox:

Thank you for your and your clients' cooperation with the Maine Ethics Commission's consideration of the request for an investigation by TABOR NOW. At its meeting yesterday, the Commission determined that the Maine People's Resource Center and the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities violated 21-A M.R.S.A. § 1056-B by not registering as ballot question committees within seven days of exceeding the \$5,000 threshold. According to information provided by the organizations, they were required to register on September 9, 2009 and July 22, 2009 respectively. The Commission assessed no penalties for the late registration, because penalties were not authorized in the law that applied prior to September 12, 2009. The Commission also requests that the Maine Center for Economic Policy amend its lobbying report for April 2009 to include LD 976.

The Commission appreciates your efforts to understand and to comply with the reporting requirements in the campaign finance law this year. I hope you and the organizations will not hesitate to call PAC/Party/Lobbyist Registrar Cindy Sullivan if you have any questions about reporting issues. I predict that these political disclosure requirements will be revisited by the Legislature in the next two years. I hope that your clients and Mr. Crocker will feel free to provide input to the Legislature to assist it in finding the right balance between promoting a better public understanding of political affairs and not unduly burdening participants in the process.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Wayne  
Executive Director

cc: Christopher St. John  
Debra Schwartz  
Jesse Graham  
David P. Crocker ✓