



MASSACHUSETTS
DEMOCRATIC
PARTY

October 28, 2015

Michael Sullivan, Director
Office of Campaign and Political Finance
1 Ashburton Place #411
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Director Sullivan:

I write today requesting a formal investigation of Republican candidate Geoff Diehl's relationship with Tankthegastax.net Political Action Committee. In a January 9th, 2015 letter to Martin Lamb, the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) acknowledges receipt of Tankthegastax.net Political Action Committee's request to dissolve. The letter states, "*if you wish your committee to maintain an active status with this office or if our understanding of your committee's status is erroneous, please contact us immediately. Also please be advised that if you should raise or spend any monies for any political purposes in the future you will again have reporting requirements and should notify us immediately.*"

In spite of the clarity of your letter, Tankthegastax.net Political Action Committee and Republican candidate Geoff Diehl are clearly engaging in electioneering activities on behalf of Diehl's candidacy. On October 14th, a fundraising email was sent from "Tank the Gas Tax Hikes" for Diehl's campaign and linked directly to Diehl's website. The email is signed by Steve Aylward, who is Diehl's campaign manager and formerly chaired Tankthegastax.net Political Action Committee.

According to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 55 Section 6: A ballot question committee shall not contribute to any other political committee, except that it may contribute to another ballot question committee if such contribution is consistent with the purpose for which it was organized. A ballot question committee shall not make any expenditure that is primarily for the personal use of any candidate or other person, nor shall it make any expenditure inconsistent with the purpose for which it was organized. A ballot question committee shall not receive, pay or expend money or other things of value for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate or for the purpose of aiding or promoting or antagonizing the interest of any political party.

By sending out a fundraising email for Diehl's campaign, Tankthegastax.net Political Action Committee is in violation of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 55 Section 6. Further, Diehl's failure to report an in-kind contribution for the use of Tankthegastax.net Political Action Committee's email list is a violation of campaign finance laws.

I thank you in advance for investigating Tankthegastax.net Political Action Committee's relationship with Republican Geoff Diehl's campaign.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. McGee
Chair, Massachusetts Democratic Party