

October 21, 2016

Governmental Ethics Commission
901 S. Kansas Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612

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KS Governmental Ethics Commission

10/21/16

To Whom It May Concern,

I recently received a letter on October 3, 2016 from the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission about an error of funding for expenditures to attend the 2016 Democratic National Convention. The letter stated that the trip was for "the personal use of the candidate", please let me explain why this trip was more than the presidential nomination process. During DNC, I attended important meetings that was educational in my role as State Representative such as with the Hispanic caucus, Native American council, labor council, and the women's caucus. The meetings were an opportunity to learn about key issues that affect Kansas as well as build relationships with legislators from other states. Also, I had an opportunity to discuss important upcoming legislation with the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators. Throughout, the week, I met with Native American state legislators and discussed important tribal issues. As legislators, we shared ideas and discussed our individual tribal issues in our own state such as with water and gaming. I networked with tribal leaders, tribal council members, and met White House officials who help me with Native American issues during the legislative session. Also, from networking I had the opportunity to visit with future donors to my campaign. Attending DNC, was an opportunity to touch base with people I work with during the legislative session, learn about issues, and network for campaign donors.

I am requesting the Ethics Commission re-evaluate its initial determination regarding my legislative travel to Philadelphia. Thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

J. Ponka-We Victors
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