

Lavin, Paul

From: Wayne, Jonathan
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Joshua A. Tardy
Cc: John Hiatt; Lavin, Paul; Gordon, Erin; Gardiner, Phyllis
Subject: Request for Information - John Hiatt
Attachments: Request for Information - John Hiatt.pdf

Josh,

In its review of John Hiatt's request for Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA) funding, the Ethics Commission staff found that 21 qualifying contributions were made with three credit or debit cards. The details are in the attached letter. It appears that the funds directly used to make the QCs were not the personal funds of the contributors. It also appears that someone other than the contributors made the online acknowledgement required by the Commission Rules.

At this time, the Commission staff has doubts whether we will be able to release MCEA funding to Mr. Hiatt. We are requesting information in writing confirming that the listed contributors made QCs to Mr. Hiatt, and explaining how the contributions were made and why these credit or debit cards were used for the contributions.

Mr. Hiatt has submitted a sufficient number of QCs (180) that we found to be valid. The issue for us is whether we can certify that his submission did not contain any falsified acknowledgments or fraudulent QCs. That is a requirement for the Commission staff to authorize payment to him.

We will consider Mr. Hiatt's written response before making a staff determination. If we deny Mr. Hiatt and he disagrees with the staff's decision, he will be able to appeal the staff's decision to the Commissioners.

Thank you.

Jonathan Wayne
Executive Director
Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 SHS
Augusta, ME 04333
287-4179