

APPENDIX B

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

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June 18, 2014

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Young:

By a unanimous vote on June 18, 2014, the Committee on Ethics (Committee) voted to adopt the recommendations of the Investigative Subcommittee (ISC) and to issue you this letter of reproof as a result of your use of campaign funds for personal purposes, your acceptance of improper gifts, and your failure to report certain gifts on your Financial Disclosure Statements. The Committee has also voted unanimously to adopt and publish the attached Report to the House of Representatives, which includes a copy of the ISC's Report and this letter as appendices.

The conduct for which you are being reproofed includes:

1. Your use of campaign funds to pay for expenses related to your and your spouse's travel to hunting lodges and ranches for events that were not campaign related.
2. Your improper acceptance of certain gifts from donors - including gifts of travel, lodging, and meals - that were not permissible under applicable House Rules.
3. Your failure to report certain gifts on your Financial Disclosure Statements.

With respect to the conduct described above, you violated House Rule XXIII, clause 6(b), which prohibits a Member from converting campaign funds to personal use and 2 U.S.C. § 439a(b), which prohibits any person from converting a campaign contribution or donation to personal use.¹ You also violated House Rule XXV, clause 5, which prohibits Members from accepting any gift that does not fall within an exception to the rule.² Finally, your conduct violated the Ethics in Government Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 4 §§ 101-111, and House Rule XXVI,

¹ "Personal use" is defined in 11 C.F.R. § 113.1(g) as "any use of funds in a campaign account . . . to fulfill a commitment, obligation or expense of any person that would exist irrespective of the candidate's campaign or duties as a Federal officeholder."

² House Rule XXV, clause 5 (hereinafter "the House Gift Rule"), was previously codified as House Rule XXVI, clause 5, until the 110th Congress.

clause 2, which require that Members file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement that includes the value, source, and a brief description of all gifts received that are greater than a threshold amount.³

Following an 18(a) investigation, the Committee established an ISC. The ISC reviewed twenty-five trips that you took to hunting lodges between 2001 and 2013. The ISC found that you accepted gifts and expenses related to fifteen of the twenty-five hunting trips that were not permissible under the applicable House Gift Rule at the time, as well as several non-trip gifts. For seven of these fifteen trips, only some of the expenses were improper, with the remaining expenses for those trips covered by an exception to the House Gift Rule. For eight of the fifteen trips, all expenses associated with the travel were either improper personal use of campaign funds or improper gifts. Additionally, you did not report on your Financial Disclosure Statements certain gifts and trips that you were required to report.

The ISC recommended and the Committee finds that you should repay the full amount of the improperly used campaign funds and the improper gifts. This amount totals \$59,063.74. This figure includes repayment of \$30,936.33 to your principal campaign committee, Alaskans for Don Young, and repayment of \$28,127.41 to ten private individuals or companies. The ISC also recommended and the Committee finds that you should amend your Financial Disclosure Statements to properly report the gifts you failed to disclose. Finally, the ISC also recommended and the Committee finds that you should be reprovved for your conduct.

In a June 2, 2014, letter to the ISC, you accepted the ISC's Report, which includes a recommendation that you be issued a letter of reprovval, and expressed regret. Prior to the Committee's adoption of its Report, you executed checks to repay your campaign and the individuals and entities that provided the impermissible gifts. You must also file properly completed amendments to your Financial Disclosure Statements to properly report the gifts you failed to disclose within 30 days of the date of this letter. The Committee appreciates that you have accepted responsibility for your conduct. The Committee also recognizes the steps you have taken in your office since 2007 to ensure compliance with House Rules.

The Committee finds, however, that your more recent efforts at compliance do not overcome the need for a letter of reprovval regarding your conduct with respect to the trips and gifts that were not permissible and, more troubling, your misuse of campaign funds for personal purposes. This is especially true given that you used campaign funds for personal purposes and accepted several of the improper gifts after the 2007 changes to the House Gift Rule and that you only brought these matters to the attention of the Committee after the U.S. Department of Justice had begun its investigation into these gifts. The Committee agrees with the ISC's assessment that your actions "demonstrated a lack of appropriate safeguards and an inattention to the relevant standards of conduct."

³ The aggregate minimal value used to determine whether gifts must be reported on a Financial Disclosure Statement is established by 5 U.S.C. § 7342(a)(5).

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Accordingly, based on your conduct in this matter, the Committee has unanimously determined that you should be publicly reprimanded. You have admitted to the actions described in this letter, and have provided your own explanations for your conduct. Now that this letter has been issued and the Committee has publicly noted its reprimand of your conduct, upon the filing of properly completed amendments to your Financial Disclosure Statements the Committee will consider this matter closed.

Sincerely,



K. Michael Conaway
Chairman



Linda T. Sánchez
Ranking Member

Enclosures