



Neal Dikeman for Senate  
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Copy Sent by Certified Mail

Dear CNN, Turner Broadcasting, and Beto for Texas,

I am writing in regard to the debate/townhall that CNN has announced it is holding for U.S. Senate candidate O'Rourke on October 18, 2018.

This event was originally scheduled as a townhall style debate as part of a Series of CNN sponsored debates and as such might have qualified as a multi-candidate debate and as such not constitute a prohibited corporate contribution to a campaign under FECA, provided CNN as the host followed the requirements of the law. However, as Senator Cruz has declined to participate, the event as currently scheduled would no longer qualify as a multi-candidate debate under the FECA, for reasons too long to enumerate here but including that such would require participation of more than one candidate. And for reasons also too long to enumerate here, but including that it is a step-out from CNN's normal pattern of news coverage, it would constitute a prohibited, and material, campaign finance contribution by a corporation, CNN, to the Beto for Texas campaign committee if it occurs as planned. See 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a).

The Neal Dikeman for Senate campaign has previously requested by phone, social media, email, and certified mail to both the Beto for Texas campaign and CNN to be included, with no response. And further as no attempt was made in the original debate organization, nor subsequently after Senator Cruz declined to participate, by either CNN nor Beto for Texas, to reach out to any other candidate on the ballot and ensure the debate/town hall could qualify as a multi-candidate debate, and as CNN and Beto for Texas knowingly and willfully continued with, and advertised the debate as a unique event solely for one candidate, unlike any other they have done, this would constitute a knowing and willful FECA violation, with no opportunity for CNN nor Beto for Texas to claim lack of knowledge as a mitigating circumstance for any damages or penalties.

As such, any funds that CNN expends and the fair market value of any services that it provides in connection with the proposed townhall/debate would constitute prohibited in kind contributions or expenditures on behalf of the Beto for Texas campaign committee, and Democratic Nominee Beto O'Rourke, in violation of the FECA. See 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a). And further, the Beto for Texas principal committee would be responsible, if found liable by the FEC, for repayment to CNN of the fair market value of the services they received in addition to any penalties assessed by the FEC under law, like any other prohibited contribution.

Further, the Neal Dikeman for Senate principal campaign committee, and Libertarian Party, would suffer material, and economic damages from your separate and joint actions, and reserve the right to take further civil action if your actions are found to be in violation of Federal law.

We would request you cancel the townhall or adjust the event to fit within the FECA so this is not a prohibited campaign contribution. Regardless your promotion of the event to date may still constitute a prohibited campaign contribution itself.

If you choose to adjust the format, and require my participation, we have prior communicated that we are available, and will be in McAllen on the 18<sup>th</sup> for another press conference on a separate matter, and remain willing to work with CNN and the Beto for Texas campaign.

We have filed an FEC complaint, including an estimate of the fair market value of the services proposed to be rendered to be well in excess of \$10 mln. We believe this is the largest campaign finance violation complaint on record, provided evidence of your proposed violation and the highly unique facts of this case. We have requested an expedited review by the FEC given the timeline, potential impact on the race, and unprecedented scale of this potential violation.

Neal Dikeman for Senate

Principal Campaign Committee of Neal Dikeman, the Libertarian Nominee for US Senate on the ballot in Texas

Kind regards,

Neal M. Dikeman

Libertarian Nominee for US Senate

Neal Dikeman for Senate

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cc: Libertarian Party; Libertarian Party of Texas, Center for Competitive Democracy