

Written Testimony – Will Senning – 2/24/2021

Hello Senator White,

I am writing to let you know and apologize that neither Chris or I will be available at 2 for the discussion of S. 51. Below is a brief summary of what my testimony would have been that you can feel free to share with the committee. Please let me know if there are any questions that come up for me during the discussion and I will provide answers asap tomorrow morning. Again, I apologize that we cannot be there and we would be happy to participate in any further discussion of the bill in SGO. Regarding the bill:

As Director of Elections and Campaign Finance, I am responsible for oversight of campaign finance registrations and disclosures. Our office plays an administrative role of accepting these registrations and disclosures and making them available to the public. As the campaign finance director, I am neutral on the policy decision of whether to ban corporate contributions to candidates and parties. That is a policy decision for the legislature.

I am fine with this bill from an administrative standpoint. We will update our registration form for PACs to include a place to indicate the "connected organization". We don't audit the registrations or disclosures and the AG's office has the investigative and enforcement powers, so any complaints regarding a PAC violating these new provisions would be filed with the AG. And any complaints about a corporate entity contributing to a candidate or party would also go to the AG for investigation. Our online filing system provides an opportunity for the public, etc., to view contributors and assess compliance with this new provision. Again, my office is neutral on the policy but we are fine with the bill from an administrative standpoint.

Regards,
Will

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