

James A. Valente
92 Green St.
Brattleboro, VT 05301

January 25, 2016

William H. Sorrell, Esq.
Attorney General
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001

Re: **Campaign Finance Violation**
Phil Scott for Governor

Dear Mr. Sorrell:

I recently watched a video available on Youtube , which was released on December 24, 2015, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTUgZ9YD2M0>. The video was produced by the user "PhilScott Vermont." "PhilScott Vermont" has released Mr. Scott's advertisements for both the Scott for Governor campaign and Mr. Scott's prior campaign for Lieutenant Governor.

The video was a 60 second spot featuring highlights of speeches from Mr. Scott's campaign announcement at the Vermont State House, and it concluded with the graphic branding of the campaign and a message encouraging potential volunteers to "join the team at www.philscott.org." A screenshot from the video, which includes this text, is enclosed herewith for your reference, and marked Exhibit 1.

The video did not include text or an audio statement indicating that the advertisement was paid for by the Phil Scott for Governor campaign, or include the mailing address of whomever was responsible for its funding and/or content. Prior videos released by the same account included this information in the final graphic. For example, a screenshot from a prior video released by the account on October 25, 2014 is enclosed herewith and marked Exhibit 2. Notable on the bottom of the video is the text "Paid for and authorized by Phil Scott for Lieutenant Governor, Glen Wright, Treasurer - 46 Three Mile Bridge Rd., Middlesex, VT 05602."

The failure of the video to include the name of the person that paid for it is a violation of 17 V.S.A. §§ 2972. The failure of the video to include an audio statement of the person that paid for it is a violation of 17 V.S.A. § 2973.

The video was posted in places on the internet which include the Facebook page of the Scott for Governor Campaign. Facebook allows political campaigns to access information for money based in part on engagements with individual posts like the video. If the Scott for Governor Campaign received information for pay as a result of posting the above video, it

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received an additional improper advantage that at a minimum must be disclosed as an expenditure in the next campaign finance report.

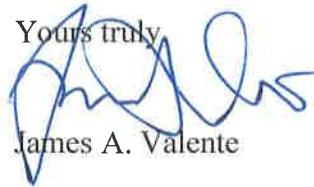
To ensure a level playing field in the 2016 election, candidates must follow Vermont's campaign finance laws. The oversight in this video, from a campaign that was on notice for at least one prior election cycle about the requirements of those laws, is concerning.

Of additional concern was the location for the advertisement, which appeared to be the Vermont State House. State Personnel Policy 5.7 restricts political activity ("directed at the success or failure of a...candidate for partisan political office") from being conducted "in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties..."

Regular state employees have been disciplined for this type of conduct, but unlike them, Mr. Scott has no supervisor in charge of enforcing personnel policies. Accordingly, this may be an appropriate matter for enforcement by the Attorney General's Office.

Thank you for your attention to the complaints raised in this letter. Because these complaints concern an active campaign and an advertisement that will be continuously viewed until action is taken, I would appreciate it if your office acted promptly to determine if there has been a violation of the law.

Yours truly,



James A. Valente

JAV:jav

PHIL SCOTT
GOVERNOR
 Join the team at www.philscott.org

0:52 / 1:00

Phil Scott for Governor 2016: A Vision For Vermont

PhilScott Vermont

Published on Dec 24, 2015
 On December 1, surrounded by close to 700 supporters, Phil Scott officially announced his candidacy for 2016 Vermont Governor. Learn more about Phil Scott's vision for Vermont at <http://www.philscott.org>

Category: News & Politics
 License: Standard YouTube License

47 views

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learn more at www.philscott.org

Video for this channel sponsored by Phil Scott for Lieutenant Governor

Democrats For Phil Scott
 PhilScott Vermont
 + Audio | Start | ... More | 47 views

Published on Oct 25, 2014
 An overwhelming number of Democratic Senators and Representatives in Vermont support and have endorsed Phil Scott For Lieutenant Governor. His open-minded and fair approach to the issues and his courage to do what is best for Vermonters in every decision continues to prove that people from all walks and ideologies can work together to make things happen.

All Comments
 Comments are disabled for this video.

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