



**September 4, 2020**

*By Federal Express*  
Old North PAC  
1747 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 800  
Washington DC 20006  
Attn: Mr. Lee Russell, Treasurer

*Re: False Advertisement Concerning North Carolina  
Attorney General Josh Stein*

Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP

555 Fayetteville Street  
Suite 1100  
Raleigh, NC 27601

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Mr. Russell:

This firm is counsel to North Carolina Attorney General, Josh Stein. If you are represented by counsel, you should forward this letter to counsel for response.

It has come to our attention that your political action committee is running an on-line advertisement concerning Attorney General Stein. That advertisement contains false and misleading statements concerning Attorney General Stein. Specifically, over pictures of burning and street violence, it claims that Attorney General Stein has been “silent on the burning” and “silent on the violence.” It also claims that Attorney General Stein “supports reduced sentences for violent criminals.”

Those statements are false. In fact, on June 1, 2020, shortly after the death of George Floyd which sparked protests around the country, including in North Carolina, Attorney General Stein issued a public statement which stated, in pertinent part:

The overwhelming majority of protesters are protesting because they want things to get better – and they’re prepared to work to make it so. I also know that these protesters are acting from a deep pain from the devaluation of their lives and a sincere commitment to right these wrongs. Others are exploiting these moments for their own agenda, forcing many already struggling small businesses to bear the cost. *That is unacceptable and wrongdoers should be held accountable*, but it will not distract from the work we have to do to heal our nation.

(See <https://ncdoj.gov/statement-from-attorney-general-josh-stein-george-floyd/>, emphasis added.)

The Attorney General’s statement has been publicly available on the North Carolina Department of Justice website for over two months. Even the most minimal research would have



revealed to your political action committee that the claims concerning Attorney General Stein were false.

In addition, the claim concerning Attorney General Stein's intentions regarding sentencing for violent felons are also false and, in any event, not supportable by reference to votes concerning bills signed into law over ten years ago.

Finally, any implication that Attorney General Stein is supportive of efforts to defund the police is inaccurate. As Attorney General, Mr. Stein, among other things, has championed the Criminal Justice Fellows Program to fund the education of law enforcement officers, secured millions of dollars to work with law enforcement to test the backlog of sexual assault kits to hold rapists accountable, and fought to enact the HOPE Act, the SAFE Child Act, and other laws to aid law enforcement.

As a result, we are demanding that your political action committee immediately cease and desist from any further dissemination of the false advertisement, whether on-line or through any other media. Your failure to immediately cease and desist will result in our taking further action, including actions with respect to any disseminating media outlets.

Please confirm compliance with this demand to me no later than September 10, 2020.

If you or your counsel have any questions, you may call me. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

WOMBLE BOND DICKINSON (US) LLP

For the Firm: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pressly M. Millen

cc: Attorney General Josh Stein  
Ms. Karen Brinson Bell, Executive Director  
North Carolina State Board of Elections