

## STATE OF DELAWARE

## **DELAWARE STATE PUBLIC INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

MARGARET O'NEILL BUILDING 410 FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 3 DOVER, DELAWARE 19901 November 24, 2009

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The Honorable Darrell Issa United States Congress, House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform 2157 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515-6143

Dear Representative Issa:

The State of Delaware Public Integrity Commission provides the following response to the Committee's inquiry concerning the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and its affiliates.

Mr. Richard Korn registered to lobby for Delaware ACORN on July 2, 2007. He terminated his registration on October 11, 2008. Expense reports for Delaware ACORN were filed by him in 2007 (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters), and 2008 (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters).

No person has ever registered to represent any of the ACORN affiliates identified in the Committee's letter.

I contacted Delaware ACORN and asked if it were lobbying because when Mr. Korn terminated, the organization was left in the system as "active" but no one registered after his termination. In speaking with a Delaware ACORN representative, Darlene Battle, it was determined that Delaware ACORN is still lobbying. It is my understanding that she did not believe Delaware ACORN needed a registered lobbyist because members conducted the lobbying. Delaware ACORN was notified that a lobbyist must register to represent the organization within 5 business days, from the November 17, 2009 e-mail. (e-mail and "read" response attached). The five (5) business days expired today. No one has registered. A certified letter was sent today to Delaware ACORN stating that the law provides that the Public Integrity Commission can refer suspected violations of the lobbying law to the Attorney General for investigation and prosecution. The matter will be on the Commission's agenda for its December 15, 2009 meeting. We will advise you of any subsequent action.

(3) Quarterly Expense Reports: 2007 (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters), and 2008 (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters).

(4) Correspondence with Darlene Battle regarding Lobbyist Registration.

If the Commission can be of further assistance to you or the Committee, please feel free to contact us at 302-739-2399.

Sincerely,

Janet A. Wright, Esq.

Public Integrity Commission

Legal Counsel

cc: Daniel Z. Epstein, Counsel, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform