

September 24, 2012

Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

2012 SEP 25 AM 11:45
OFFICE OF FEDERAL
ELECTION COMMISSION

Complainant: Brian Rothenberg
Progress Ohio
172 E. State Street, 6th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 441-9145

Respondent: Romney for President
PO Box 149756
Boston, MA 02114-9756

MUR # 6651

Murray Energy Corporation
29325 Chagrin Boulevard, Suite 300
Pepper Pike, OH 44122

To Whom It May Concern:

On information and belief, it is my understanding that coal miners employed by Murray Energy at the Murray Coal plant in Beallsville, Ohio were required to attend a political rally on or about August 14, 2012, in support of presidential candidate, Mitt Romney. These workers' attendance at the Romney rally during normal work hours was mandatory, according to Chief Operations Officer Robert Moore.¹ This appears to have caused several workers to fear detrimental job action if they did not attend.² Though it appears that these workers were not paid to attend (to the contrary, the mandatory attendance at the rally appears to have cost many of these workers several hours, if not an entire day's pay), the attendance of these miners was something of value to the Romney campaign that was not freely given- but a requirement on the part of the corporation that they work for, Murray Energy. The attendance now has an even greater value, as images of miners, who were required to attend, are now part of at least two (2) new Romney television ads that began to run in Ohio on or about September 19, 2012.³

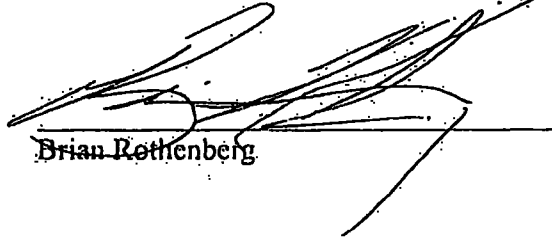
I believe the actions of Murray Energy and the Mitt Romney campaign have violated federal campaign finance law and corresponding regulations. First, I believe the required attendance of the miners was something of value given from Murray Energy to the Romney campaign, which is a prohibited corporate contribution under 29 CFR 114.2.

¹ http://www.newsradio1170.com/player/?station=WWVA-AM&program_name=podcast&program_id=BLOOMDADDY.xml&mid=22385072
<http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-pn-romney-ad-miners-rally-20120919.0.5570673.story>
² http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2012/08/coal_miners_lost_pay_when_mitt.html
³ http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2012/09/romney_campaign_targets_caster.html

I also believe that Murray Energy coerced its employees to attend the Romney rally, essentially forcing these employees to make a contribution to a candidate in violation of 29 CFR Section 114.2(f)(iv), which prohibits a corporation from "using coercion, such as the threat of a detrimental job action, the threat of any other financial reprisal, or the threat of force, to urge any individual to make a contribution or engage in fundraising activities on behalf of a candidate or political committee."

I request that this matter be investigated.

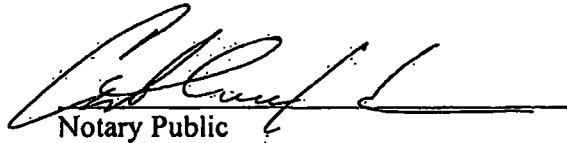
Upon penalty of perjury, I attest that the information contained in this letter is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.


Brian Rothenberg

Signed and Sworn before me this 24th day of September, 2012.



CATHRINE J. HARSHMAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Has No Expiration
Section 147.03 R.C.


Notary Public

newer per ORC 147.03
Commission Expiration