

# Comment to AOR 2001-13

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Federal Election Commission  
Office of General Counsel  
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Washington, DC 20463

AUG 31

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504-671-8654

Re: AO 2001-13

I object to the requested FEC "Recognition of the Coordinating Committee of the Green Party of the United States As the National Committee of the Green Party.

First, the Green Party of the United States (GPUS) was created this past July 2001 at the Coordinating Committee meeting of the Association of State Green Parties (ASGP). It is not the same as the Greens/Green Party USA which was recognized in 1996 AO# 1996-35 as a political party for FEC purposes under the law and referred to in the AO as "the Green Party".

The ASGP was created by a group of former GPUSA members and others after the 1996 elections. There have been numerous attempts since at unification between the two groups since but all have failed to date.

The minutes of the 1998 ASGP meeting in New Mexico show that both groups recognized the existence of each other at that time. The ASGP asked the GPUSA to withdraw its 1996 AOR and the GPUSA representative Howie Hawkins refused in the name of the GPUSA. The preceding information is available in minutes that can be obtained from the GPUS (former ASGP).

My personal interest relates to the fact that I am listed as one of 830 plus "Green Party" candidates in Exhibit 4, used to help justify the current AOR.

Some background:

I have considered myself part of the worldwide green movement since I first came across the Green Party of Germany in Munich, W. Germany in 1980 where I was employed at the time.

In 1990 I ran as an independent green (environmental) candidate for City Council in Destin, FL where I was a member of the City Environmental Committee. I received 20% of the vote. My campaign was documented in the NW Florida Daily News published in Ft. Walton Beach, FL, and in other local newspapers.

I was aware of, but not a candidate of or a member of, the GPUSA.

In 2000, I ran as a Green Party candidate for New Orleans School Board - District 4. I was registered as a Green Party voter in Louisiana and I was a member of the G/GPUSA (since July 2000). I did not seek and did not have the endorsement of the GPUSA. I was endorsed by the Greater New Orleans Green Party (GNOGP) at an in person meeting by a 26 to 0 vote in September of 2000. The GNOGP is composed of New Orleans area members of the Green Party of Louisiana (GPL). All newspaper and TV coverage listed me as the Green Party candidate.

The GNOGP and the GPL are independent parties not affiliated then, now, and not currently seeking affiliation with either the GPUSA, or the ASGP

(or its successor - GPUS).

I did not seek and did not receive any support or endorsement from the ASGP.

I did receive some limited campaign canvassing support from the Nader for President Louisiana Field Office. The Nader campaign had a fully independent campaign operation from either that of the GPUSA or ASGP though both organizations endorsed and supported the Nader campaign.

My name became part of the ASGP/GPUS list of "Green Party" candidates given in Exhibit 4 because the ASGP did a search for all candidates listed as Green in all the Secretary of State and election related offices throughout the country. I did not ask to be on this list but did not ask to be removed as I thought the list was useful for the general public.

The correct way to view this list is as a list of all candidates who used the Green Party designation, not as candidates of a supposed single national Green Party which in fact has not and still does not exist.

At the end of section "II" of this AOR (page 13) there is a disclaimer "A complete history of Green Part candidates ... this listing is not intended to imply that all of these candidates have necessarily indicated support for this filing". A more correct statement would be that the vast majority of these candidates have not indicated support for this filing.

Many of the candidates listed were sole candidates of the GPUSA "the Green Party" of AO 1996-35, and their affiliated state parties, caucuses and locals. Others, such as myself were candidates of independent local and state Green Parties in no way associated with the ASGP. There is today as in the past no single national organization with more than a minority of local, regional and state Green Parties as affiliated members. In some states multiple Green Parties exist. In Missouri the Progressive party referred to as seeking affiliation with the GPUS is tiny compared to the preexisting Missouri Green Party that is solely affiliated with the GPUSA.

Currently Alaska one of the oldest of the state Green Parties is not affiliated with either GPUSA or GPUS(ASGP) and decided at its last statewide meeting not to seek affiliation with the ASGP. North Carolina, Indiana, and a number of other states have not decided on affiliation yet.

8 or 9 states are dually affiliated with both GPUSA and ASGP thereby demonstrating that 2 separate national green party organizations exist. One, the GPUSA has been and still is the only national dues paying membership organization while the other GPUS(ASGP) is still an organization of representatives from state parties only. Individual members claimed by the GPUS(ASGP) are in fact only members of their respective state parties or of registered greens who in most cases do not even know of the existence of the GPUS(ASGP).

Now the real problem is that because of the Nader campaign and the general ignorance of the press concerning competing and independent green parties, a large part of the general public thinks there already exists a single Green Party.

The ASGP has tried to capitalise on this belief and claim for itself the

mantel of the "Green Party", but it is less entitled to it than the G/GPUSA which promoted the Green Party name and 10 key values since its founding long before the ASGP came into existence. The GPUSA continues to this date to act as the national Green Party which it has been recognised to do so in the AO 1996-35. GPUSA members worked on the staff of the Nader campaign, were instrumental in getting Nader on the ballot in many states as were some ASGP members and also independent greens. GPUS is an organization of some Green Parties but is not the national Green Party.

Further the "Green Party" convention in Denver in 2000 that "nominated" Ralph Nader, while hosted by the ASGP, was in fact a convention of delegates representing ASGP member states, the GPUSA, and numerous independent local and state groups. The Platform adopted at this convention was prepared under the control of the ASGP but was adopted as the platform of the convention, not the platform of either the ASGP or the Nader campaign. In addition the finances of this convention have never been made public.

The GPUSA held a separate Congress in 2000 of only its members and also endorsed the Nader candidacy on its own.

The efforts to get Nader on the ballot and subsequent campaign efforts were done by a wide variety of groups and individuals, green and not green, with only a small part of the effort directly from ASGP member states. This can be confirmed through the Nader Campaign Officers.

Now if the ASGP filed for national committee recognition under the ASGP name or one distinct from the Green Party USA, and did not falsify its history I would not object to its request.

It is clear that the changing of the ASGP name to GPUS is an attempt to take advantage of the good will previously created for the name Green Party by the GPUSA and the Nader Campaign Committee. It is a fact that Ralph Nader ran as the candidate of the Green Party USA in 1996 and that in 2000 he ran as an independent endorsed by various Green Parties. He was not just, or primarily, the candidate of the ASGP.

Finally the GPUS presents affidavits from a number of federal office green candidates supporting the GPUS before it was even created and before any ASGP vote to change its name to GPUS. The affidavit of Howie Hawkins is however dated in the future and some affidavits were changed from the forms they were originally sent (see Joe Fortunato of NJ).

The GPUS has only since late July tried to function as a political party. It has no real national office. The Denver office listed is a private mail box company as can be seen from the ASGP use of the same address using PMB (Private Mail Box) required by the Post Office Dept. for non US mail box businesses. See address given at bottom of AOR page headed in big lettering ASGP. It is the 3rd or 4th page in the AOR.

Further the official minutes of the ASGP meeting where the GPUS apparently was created have not been made public or even distributed to its constituent members. The candidates who submitted affidavits cannot know whether they in fact support GPUS since they have no idea what was actually adopted as far as by-law and other changes. Signing blank checks is not valid support.

Finally, I request a time extension for further comments on AO 2001-13 as the report is quite long and half the comment period was taken up

waiting for a copy to arrive(regular mail was the only option allowed by the public records office as I do not have a Federal Express account).

One last point - The Green Party of New York filed an AOR , AO #1996-43 in which the FEC accepted GPNY as a state committee affiliated with the G/GPUSA. The ASGP had nothing to do with this AO and in no way supports the GPUS AOR.

Respectfully submitted August 27th 2001 by Les Evenchick

New Orleans , LA



member Greater New Orleans Green Party  
Green Party of Louisiana  
Green Caucus of Louisiana  
G/Green Party USA  
all unaffiliated with the GPUS(ASGP)