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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION,
Plaintiff,
v.
JEREMY JOHNSON, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 2:15-cv-00439-DB

CROSS-MOTION FOR PARTIAL JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS

District Judge Dee Benson

PLAINTIFF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION'S CROSS-MOTION FOR PARTIAL JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(c), plaintiff Federal Election Commission cross-moves for judgment on the pleadings against the third affirmative defense of defendant John Swallow's answer. (*See* Def.'s Answer to Am. Compl. at 37-38 (Docket No. 45).)

On September 20, 2017, the Court stayed all proceedings in this case pending defendant Jeremy Johnson's currently pending criminal appeal. (*See* Joint Stipulation and Order to Stay Proceedings ¶ 1 (Docket No. 91).) As an exception to that stay, the Court ordered that Swallow could file a motion under Rule 12(c) by October 23, 2017, and that in response the Commission could cross-move under Rule 12(c) "on any issues raised by defendant Swallow's Rule 12(c) motion." (*Id.*) On October 23, 2017, Swallow moved under Rule 12(c) against the Commission

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in part on the basis of the third affirmative defense of his answer. (*See* Def. John Swallow's Mot. to Dismiss, Mot. for J. on the Pleadings, and Mem. in Supp. at vi (Docket No. 98).) The Commission now cross-moves under Rule 12(c) against the third affirmative defense.

The Court should grant the Commission's cross-motion. Judgment against a pleaded affirmative defense is warranted under Rule 12(c) where the "non-moving party can prove no set of facts which would form the basis for relief" and thus the defense is "insufficient as a matter of law." *FDIC ex rel. Heritage Bank & Trust v. Lowe*, 809 F. Supp. 856, 858-59 (D. Utah 1992) (dismissing affirmative defenses under Rule 12(c)). This Court has previously entered judgment on the pleadings in this case against defendant Jeremy Johnson's legally insufficient affirmative defenses (*See* Order on Mot. for Partial J. on the Pleadings or to Strike Affirmative Defenses (Docket No. 34).) Here, Swallow's third affirmative defense is insufficient as a matter of law for the reasons stated in the Commission's contemporaneously filed Memorandum in Opposition to Defendant John Swallow's Motions to Dismiss and for Judgment on the Pleadings. *See* DUCivR 7-1(b)(1)(A) (allowing a cross-movant to "incorporate the briefing contained in a memorandum in opposition").

Respectfully submitted,

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November 20, 2017

<u>/s/ Sana Chaudhry</u> Sana Chaudhry (schaudhry@fec.gov) Attorney

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 20, 2017, I electronically filed plaintiff Federal

Election Commission's Cross-Motion for Partial Judgment on the Pleadings with the Clerk of the

United States District Court for the District of Utah by using the Court's CM/ECF system, which

sent notification of such filing to the following:

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