

September 30, 2020

BY EMAIL

Chairman Ted Deutch
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**RE: Matt Mowers, Candidate for the First Congressional District of
New Hampshire**

Dear Chairman Deutch:

Matt Mowers wants to represent the people of New Hampshire's First District in Congress. Yet he has failed to satisfy one of the basic filing requirements to do so.

Indeed, Title I of the Ethics in Government Act (the "EIGA") mandates that a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives must file a Financial Disclosure Statement that "full[y] and complete[ly]" discloses, among other financial information, "[t]he source, type, and amount or value of income ... and the source, date, and amount of honoraria from any source" that the candidate received in recent years. Mr. Mowers has not.

To be clear, Mr. Mowers claims he has filed a Financial Disclosure Statement. But it is indecipherable. And it is indecipherable because, despite near universal use of the Committee on Ethics ("COE") online filing system,¹ Mr. Mowers curiously opted to submit an illegibly hand-written paper copy of his disclosure. Schedule J of Mr. Mowers' "disclosure" demonstrates that it does just the opposite of "full[y] and complete[ly]" disclosing his financial information:

¹ A system which the Committee "strongly encourages" filers to use because it "can significantly increase the accuracy" of a candidate's FDS. See U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ethics, *Instruction Guide – Financial Disclosure Statements and Periodic Transaction Reports* (CY 2019).

SCHEDULE J – COMPENSATION IN EXCESS OF \$5,000 PAID BY ONE SOURCE

Source (Name and City/State)		Brief Description of Duties
Example:	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, Homestate	Accounting Services
THANKS FOR AMERICA, WASHINGTON, DC		COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING TO PACE US INC
THE GTR, AUSTIN, TX		BUSINESS STRATEGY CONSULTING
STANLEY BEARDSLEY, WASHINGTON, DC		Business Strategy Consulting
JOHN P. PETER, WASHINGTON, DC		CONSULTING AND PPS RESEARCH
WILLIAM, COLUMBIA, SC		HR & POLICY CONSULTING
2100 MONTGOMERY AVENUE, WASHINGTON, DC		COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING
BRANDT, WASHINGTON, DC		Business Strategy Consulting

Because Mr. Mowers' Financial Disclosure Statement cannot be read in full, he has failed to satisfy his reporting obligation under the EIGA. That failure warrants an investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice's Public Integrity Section.

Whether that investigation will find that Mr. Mowers intentionally flouted ethics law to deliberately conceal sources of income is for the Public Integrity Section to investigate and decide. But there are reasons to believe he did.

Shortly after Mr. Mowers left the U.S. Department of State, for example, he was paid honoraria nearing \$100,000 from unknown sources for speaking engagements in Korea. Constituents and members of his own party—including his former principal primary competitor, Mr. Matt Mayberry and his campaign—have publicly raised concerns about Mr. Mowers' Financial Disclosure Statement:

Even more disturbing is that Mr. Mowers still hasn't explained why a 29-year-old mid-level bureaucrat at the State Department was paid nearly \$100,000 for three speeches in Korea. What did he have to say that was worth so much money? Who are these mysterious organizations that Mowers went so far out of his way to hide from us, that he illegibly hand-wrote their names on his disclosure form? Who did he talk to and who set it up?²

In fairness, the law does not require that Mr. Mowers disclose the answers to all the questions his former primary contender posed. New Hampshire voters, however, very much have the right to ask them; yet, as a result of Mr. Mowers "scribbled illegible

² Matt Mayberry for Congress, *Matt Mowers continues to ignore calls to fully disclose his personal financial records, explain mysterious \$100,000 payment for three speeches made in Korea, available at <https://mayberryforcongress.com/matt-mowers-continues-to-ignore-calls-to-fully-disclose-his-personal-financial-records-explain-mysterious-100000-payment-for-three-speeches-made-in-korea/>.*

mess” of a disclosure statement, we have been deprived of the basic information needed to make such inquiries of the candidate.³

Absent an investigation, Mr. Mowers’ Financial Disclosure Statement sets a dangerous precedent for future U.S. House of Representatives candidates—no matter their political party. If a candidate does not want voters to know about the sources of his or her income, all that candidate must do is file an indecipherable paper copy. And while they can publicly claim that their Financial Disclosure Statement was filed, they never will have to answer for their deliberate obfuscation.⁴

The U.S. House of Representatives Financial Disclosure Statement is not just a box candidates check. It is a demonstration by candidates that they will commit themselves to transparent public service. Mr. Mowers’ illegible Financial Disclosure Statement cannot suffice to satisfy his obligations under the law or to show the citizens of New Hampshire he is ready to make such a commitment.

Mr. Mowers can spare the expenditure of substantial government resources simply by refiling a Financial Disclosure Statement that is readable. That, of course, is the approach that would best align with his ostensibly conservative principles.

Sincerely,

/s/ Diane M. Chubb

Diane M. Chubb, Esq.

Encl.

³ Matt Mayberry for Congress, *Matt Mowers Financial Disclosure Raises More Questions than it Answers*, available at <https://mayberryforcongress.com/matt-mowers-financial-disclosure-raises-more-questions-than-it-answers/>.

⁴ It also is notable that Mr. Mayberry chose not to identify his nearly million dollar Washington, D.C. condominium on his Financial Disclosure Statement. That omission suggests that he views D.C. as his primary residence; not the Granite State. Mr. Mowers has ignored entirely the concerns raised by such nondisclosure. And while he was entitled to designate D.C. as his home and thus omit it from the disclosure statement, to do so while simultaneously claiming to be New Hampshire-focused casts doubt on the veracity of his representations to voters, including those made in the Financial Disclosure Statement.