

News Release**For Immediate Release****Contact: Tom Ivancie
(503) 333-4233****Columbia Riverkeeper involvement in recall elections exposed;
Call for Board investigation into staff activities**

(Portland, OR: November 16, 2009) Energy Action Northwest (EANW), a business and labor coalition devoted to promoting rational energy policy, today strongly criticized Columbia Riverkeeper (CRK) for its participation in the recent Clatsop County recall elections and called upon the CRK Board of Directors to investigate the campaign activities of its staff. Engaging in direct or indirect election activity by a non-profit organization is prohibited by law.

EANW's statement follows in the wake of Friday's disclosure of evidence that CRK had misrepresented its role in the recent recall elections before the Clatsop County Commission. That evidence, as reported in NorthCoastOregon.com, revealed communications and other recall campaign-related activities among CRK staff and its Executive Director, attorney Brett VandenHeuvel. Such activities are specifically prohibited by CRK's status as a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation.

EANW Executive Director Tom Ivancie stated, "In January, we launched a 'truth' offensive as part of our mission to hold people accountable for their participation and statements in our region's energy debate. In our view, Riverkeeper has consistently misrepresented the facts surrounding proposed energy infrastructure development. Now it has been reported that the organization has secretly participated in political campaign activities against elected officials involved with projects CRK opposes while simultaneously denying their involvement. This is unacceptable conduct by any standard."

Ivancie continued, "I believe I speak for many in our state when I express complete frustration with CRK's continued policy of clouding rational discussion of our energy options. They seek to delay at every turn development of needed energy infrastructure that is vital to the economic interests of our region and the jobs of thousands of Oregonians."

In the October 27th Clatsop County recall election, Commission Chair Jeff Hazen handily defeated the recall attempt, while Commissioner Ann Samuelson lost her seat by a margin of four votes out of 2,022 votes cast in her district (50.1% to 49.9%). The overall turnout for both recall elections was 50.7%. Because the results were so close, state election law triggered an automatic recount. In the end, Samuelson lost her seat. However, another recall is planned for December 8th for a third County Commissioner.

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The Job Keepers.

According to Ivancie, “The NorthCoastOregon.com article provides dramatic evidence that, in explicit contrast to written assurances by CRK, the organization was involved in the efforts to recall the two county commissioners. In denying CRK's role in the recall, yet working secretly behind the scenes, VandenHeuvel and staff have exposed the organization to potential IRS rule violations which could jeopardize the organization's nonprofit status and/or subject it to fines and taxes.”

“In our efforts this year, we have tried to bring attention to CRK’s use of misleading information. This pattern of behavior is counterproductive to promoting a reasoned debate about our region’s clean energy future. However, when misrepresentation encompasses activity explicitly prohibited by law, EANW is compelled to call upon the CRK Board of Directors to investigate these staff activities...if only to protect the integrity of the thousands of dollars donated to the organization in good faith by people who assume the law is being followed.”

To see the NorthCoastOregon.com exposé and related documents, please visit <http://northcoastoregon.com/link.asp?smenu=1&sdetail=1880&wpage=1>

The documents can also be viewed at EANW’s website: www.energyactionnw.org

Energy Action Northwest is a public policy advocacy group representing businesses and labor organizations in the Pacific Northwest that are concerned about the reliability and affordability of electricity and natural gas. Its members are energy stakeholders who support the organization’s objectives recommending energy policies based on sound economics, science, rational environmental stewardship and competitive cost. The organization also provides accurate information and context needed to correct misinformation created by certain opponents to the development of new energy infrastructure in Oregon and Washington.

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