DAVE FREUDENTHAL
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

June 21, 2006

Drake D. Hill, Chairman
Wyoming Republican Party
P.O. Box 241
Casper, WY 82602-0241

Dear Mr. Hill:

I have read with interest your press release concerning my response to your Public Records Act request. In the press release, you say you have made a "very specific" request. And you indicate that you want to know "where and with whom the governor is flying in state jets" and the "relationship between state government and the governor's wife and brother." If that is all you are seeking, that is a relatively specific request, which state government should be able to answer in a reasonable time and with a reasonable effort.

However, your actual request is of far greater magnitude. For example, your press release fails to mention that you also requested the following:

1. "All documents and materials of any kind whatsoever related to any contracts [or other agreements] entered into between the State of Wyoming [or any of its agencies] and Bill Sniffin, **or any company, entity, business, or venture related in any way to Bill Sniffin.**"
2. "All documents and materials of any kind whatsoever related to any contracts [or other agreements] entered into between the State of Wyoming [or any of its agencies] and **any client represented by any person employed by or associated with the law firm of Davis & Cannon.**"
3. "All documents and materials of any kind whatsoever related to any contracts [or other agreements] entered into between the State of Wyoming [or any of its agencies] and **any client represented by any person employed by or associated with the law firm of Freudenthal, Salzburg & Bonds, P.C.**"
4. "All documents and materials of any kind whatsoever related to "**any sole source contract**" entered into by the Office of the Governor [or any state agency] **for legal or other services provided.**" (Emphasis added.)

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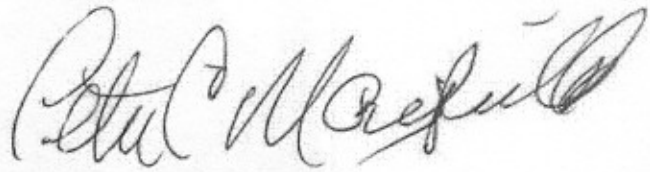
Most of your request letters contain the following very expansive definition: "The phrase '[a]ll documents and materials of any kind whatsoever,' is intended to be interpreted in its **broadest sense possible,** regardless of the physical form or characteristic, and includes those documents that are maintained in hard-copy form, in electronic form, or on micro-film. This request includes all materials in your files, whether **created by you, another State Agency, a Federal Agency, private organizations, public organizations, governmental agencies, or individuals."** (Emphasis added.)

Not only is the breadth and scope of the request for information concerning clients of private law firms, and persons or businesses related "in any way" to Mr. Sniffin intrusive, but it suggests that state government should inquire into the business relationships and associations of private law firms and private business people such as Mr. Sniffin, including their clients and business associates. Your request for information concerning **all** "sole source" contracts has no limitation as to the person or entity involved, nor does it even provide a time frame for this request. This request, with no limitation as to person, entity, or time involved, could literally involve thousands of documents. I note your request concerning Mr. Sniffin's business has no time limitation either, and we would, for example, have to search to see if his many newspapers and publications ever published any legal notices for the state over a period of many years.

I think it is very clear that your request is not "a very specific request."

If you are truly interested in making a "very specific request," then I would enthusiastically invite you to do so by conforming your actual request to your press release. A revised request in writing and submitted quickly would save untold hours of state employee time. In the meantime, Wyoming state government has no choice under the Wyoming Public Records Act but to try to comply with the request you have actually made.

Sincerely,



Peter C. Maxfield
Counsel to the Governor

PCM:pjb