



May 8, 2012

Mr. Mike Connett
3363 Pineview Drive
Loris, South Carolina 29569
advthtr@sccoast.net

Dear Mr. Connett,

The South Carolina Republican Party has reviewed your letter of candidate protest against Blake A. Hewitt dated May 7, 2012. Your protest is denied for the following reason:

Mr. Hewitt was an "exempt" candidate under SC Code 8-13-1356(A) because he satisfied the definition of "public official" as set forth in Chapter 13 of Title 8.

After reviewing the facts, Mr. Hewitt filed a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) (timestamp 3/29/2012 5:48 PM) online before he filed his Statement of Intention of Candidacy (SIC) (timestamp 3/30/12 9:50 AM). Accordingly, because he was a "candidate" and therefore a "public official" for purposes of 8-13-1356(A), the facts show that Mr. Hewitt had a current SEI on file and was therefore exempt from the paper copy filing requirement.

Sincerely,

Matt Mobre
Executive Director, South Carolina Republican Party