

19 January 2026

**RE:** Joe A. Kunzler Comments for PDC January 22, 2026 Meeting

Dear Public Disclosure Commission;

Joe A. Kunzler here. I'm back for a 2026 that matters. First, please put me on the oral public comment schedule for Thursday.

Second, as to the rulemaking petition to the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) wind down mini-reporting, I happen to support it. It's time to require every candidate and PAC to follow the same rules and stop playing stupid games. Mini-reporting should *not* be phased out in 2032; try instead placing on full reporting any campaign or committee operating on or after 12:00:01 AM January 1, 2028.

Third, I want to make you the PDC Commissioners and Staff aware that we have a crisis situation brewing in the Sedro-Woolley School District. One, we're having school board meetings become a campaign venue for both sides. But that's not as bad as number two: We have a shadow group in "SaveWoolley" that is currently not in compliance with PDC requirements. Yet this SaveWoolley group is running a website at [savewoolley.com/about-us/](http://savewoolley.com/about-us/), a Facebook page, and posting signs in the community without any sponsor identification. The school levy election is on February 10. I have filed a complaint on the matter, yet my complaint is not on the PDC website as of 9 AM, 19 January 2026. There is also Case #184107 about this group not having sponsor ID on their signs that fails to address other issues.

I want to stress to the PDC this matter should show that the PDC needs more powers and tools – not less. This is a test to see if the PDC can deal with a dark money effort – and if not, what tools are needed from the **2027** Washington State Legislature. Not just asset confiscation and blocking from the ballot repeated scofflaws, but the ability to get by a domain privacy shield and post signs without a sponsor ID.

Referring to The People's Right to Know by Hugh A. Bone and Cindy M. Fey, when the initiative authorizing the Public Disclosure Commission faced Washington State Supreme Court review, the State Supreme Justices found...

The right of the electorate to know, "Is no less fundamental than the right to privacy."

Furthermore, there is this passage from page 16 is incredibly timely and could be speaking not just about SaveWoolley but our nemesis Avrum (Alex) Tsimerman:

Although the compliance rate and the quality of information disclosed have improved, there is concern about those individuals who have found ways to avoid reporting. Former chairman of the commission, Dr. Werner Quast, warned that honest people would willingly comply with the law while the dishonest would find technical ways to subvert it and become more secretive in their dealings. Critics of the PDC feel that the commission has not enforced the law stringently enough to discourage serious violations. In some cases, penalties are so minor that individuals are willing to risk violation.

Finally, it needs to be stressed that as much as I'm receptive to some of the arguments "Save Woolley" is making – we cannot allow dark money to come racing into a community and try to subvert our politics. We just cannot. That means ensuring the PDC has the tools necessary to protect the integrity of our elections. Ultimately, as The People's Right to Know surmised in 1978,

While the PDC's concern for the individuals who report is a necessary element in its task, it must demonstrate consistently a firm commitment to the provisions of the law. In order to implement the law successfully, the commission must also be provided with an adequate budget. Without sufficient commitment and resources, the commission will lose the confidence of the people and contribute toward greater public frustration and distrust of government.

State legislators and the Governor's Office would be keen and wise to heed this timeless warning about any attempt to defund the PDC or withhold PDC appointments any longer.

Thank you for your continued public service;

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe A. Kunzler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe A. Kunzler  
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