



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of )  
 ) MUR 8011  
 Daniel Defense, *et al.* )  
 )

**STATEMENT OF REASONS OF VICE CHAIRMAN SEAN J. COOKSEY AND COMMISSIONERS ALLEN J. DICKERSON AND JAMES E. “TREY” TRAINOR, III**

The Complaint alleged that Daniel Defense LLC violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (“the Act”), by making a prohibited federal-contractor contribution to Gun Owners Action Fund (“GOAF”), an independent expenditure-only political committee.<sup>1</sup> Daniel Defense did not dispute the allegations, and it requested and received a refund upon learning that the contribution was impermissible.<sup>2</sup> We voted to find reason to believe that Daniel Defense violated the Act and approved a conciliation agreement.<sup>3</sup>

We declined to approve, however, OGC’s recommendation to find reason to believe that GOAF violated the Act by knowingly soliciting a prohibited federal-contractor contribution in violation of § 30119(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 115.2(c). The Complaint does not name GOAF as a Respondent—it names only Daniel Defense—and it makes no allegations of a knowing solicitation by GOAF.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, there is nothing in the record to support OGC’s manufactured allegation of knowing solicitation against GOAF and to overcome GOAF’s denial that it knew of Daniel Defense’s federal-contractor status.<sup>5</sup>

This recommendation with respect to GOAF was based on substantially the same analysis and record evidence the Commission considered in MUR 7889 (SIG SAUER, Inc.). We rejected

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<sup>1</sup> See Second General Counsel’s Report at 1–2 (Nov. 28, 2022), MURs 7889 & 8011 (Gun Owners’ Action Fund, *et al.*); see also 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a); 11 C.F.R. § 115.2(a).

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Response of Daniel Defense (Jun. 21, 2022), MUR 8011 (Daniel Defense, *et al.*).

<sup>3</sup> Certification (Dec. 15, 2022), MURs 7889 & 8011 (Gun Owners Action Fund, *et al.*) (finding reason to believe); Certification (Feb. 1, 2023), MUR 8011 (Daniel Defense, *et al.*) (approving conciliation agreement).

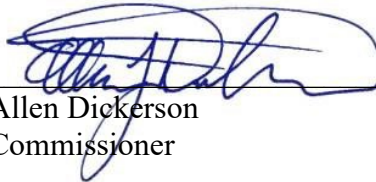
<sup>4</sup> Complaint (Jun. 9, 2022), MUR 8011 (Daniel Defense, *et al.*).

<sup>5</sup> Response of Gun Owners Action Fund (Jun. 27, 2022), MUR 8011 (Daniel Defense, *et al.*).


the same recommendations as to GOAF in that matter and, accordingly, do so again here for the same reasons.<sup>6</sup>

  
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Sean J. Cooksey  
Vice Chairman

March 1, 2023  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Allen Dickerson  
Commissioner

March 1, 2023  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James E. "Trey" Trainor, III  
Commissioner

March 1, 2023  
Date

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<sup>6</sup> Statement of Reasons of Vice Chairman Sean J. Cooksey and Commissioners Allen Dickerson and James E. "Trey" Trainor, III at 3-5 (Jan. 20, 2023), MUR 7889 (SIG SAUER, Inc., *et al.*).