



U.S. Attorney General District of Montana:

To whom it may concern,

At a time when public trust in our institutions is at an all time low it is crucial that as elected and public officials we do all we can to rebuild that faith. One such way we can strengthen trust is via transparency, and few things are as transparent as the Personal Finance Disclosure for people running for Congress.

One U.S. House of Representative Candidate, Ryan Zinke, has now failed for a second time<sup>1</sup> to file his personal finance disclosure. Not only is this disappointing because of Mr. Zinke's issues with properly disclosing his finances, but because this is the second time he has failed to offer the public a transparent understanding of who he is.

The 2022 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments for Ethics in Government Act Violations, 87 Fed. Reg. 2523 states that "the Attorney General may pursue either civil or criminal penalties against an individual who knowingly and willfully falsifies a Statement or fails to file a Statement required by the EIGA. The maximum civil penalty is \$66,190. The maximum criminal penalty is up to one year in prison and a fine of up to \$66,190."

"In addition, 18 U.S.C. § 1001, as amended by the False Statements Accountability Act of 1996, is applicable to FD Statements and PTRs. That criminal statute provides for a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for up to five years for knowingly and willfully making any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation, or falsifying, concealing, or covering up a material fact, in a filing under the EIGA."

In his previous financial disclosure statement<sup>2</sup> submitted after the legally required deadline dated Nov. 29, 2021, Mr. Zinke listed receiving income totalling \$410,000 over the previous two years from a one JVL Enterprises in Dallas, TX. A business with this name was dissolved<sup>3</sup> in 2013, and no such business is currently registered with the state of Texas. Further, several other special interest entities listed under Section J exceeded \$5,000 in compensation to Mr. Zinke lacks detail and specificity. Together, it raises serious questions about the truthfulness and veracity of his previous disclosure report that should be examined.

As an attorney my clients and I rely upon the fact that everyone is playing by the same set of laws, rules, and processes. I urge you to please look into the actions of Mr. Zinke and hold him accountable for his failure to act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica Tranel". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.

*Monica Tranel*

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<sup>1</sup>[https://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/zinkes-financial-disclosure-shows-big-income-property-worth-millions/article\\_9381a435-fcb6-5b18-88ec-8fd59a5c9088.html](https://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/zinkes-financial-disclosure-shows-big-income-property-worth-millions/article_9381a435-fcb6-5b18-88ec-8fd59a5c9088.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public\\_disc/financial-pdfs/2021/10044118.pdf](https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2021/10044118.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://opencorporates.com/companies/us\\_tx/0148986200](https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_tx/0148986200)