



ACCCE - Bonner & Associates Background Document

ACCCE and its predecessor organizations have engaged in the public affairs arena for more than 16 years, supporting policies to sustain environmental progress, promote greater energy security, and broaden economic prosperity. Over the past two years, our efforts in the federal affairs area have focused on working constructively with Democratic, Republican and Independent policy makers in support of the timely adoption of a reasonable federal carbon management program.

As part of our work, ACCCE has maintained high standards in executing programs that allow constituents to contact their elected and appointed officials to express their views about energy and environmental issues. For ten years, ACCCE and its predecessor organizations have contracted with the Hawthorn Group to execute this part of our public outreach program.

In June of this year, leading up to the U.S. House of Representatives' vote on H.R. 2454, the Hawthorn Group subcontracted with Bonner and Associates to conduct outreach to community-based groups in a handful of congressional districts. ACCCE was aware that the Hawthorn Group had engaged Bonner and Associates for this purpose. Hawthorn was responsible for managing Bonner's work to ensure the same level of quality control that Hawthorn has provided in executing outreach programs on our behalf in the past.

Due to reported misconduct by a Bonner and Associates employee (who the firm states was subsequently fired), it appears that a total of twelve falsified letters were sent by that firm to the offices of Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper, Congressman Christopher Carney and Congressman Tom Perriello.

Based upon information ACCCE received from the Hawthorn Group, it was Bonner and Associates' own internal process that identified these falsified letters and it was Mr. Bonner who first brought this to the attention of the Hawthorn Group. ACCCE was then made aware of the situation by Hawthorn on June 24, 2009.

In that discussion, we were assured by Hawthorn that senior management with Bonner and Associates had committed to making personal contacts with the affected organizations and the congressional offices who received falsified letters. Throughout this process, ACCCE has been told that Bonner and Associates had made contacts with the affected organizations and was continuing to make contacts with congressional offices. It was only by reading last Friday's media accounts that we learned that these matters had not been satisfactorily resolved.

Due to assurances that Bonner and Associates provided to Hawthorn, and Hawthorn subsequently communicated to ACCCE, we believe this matter to be limited to the three congressional districts mentioned above. However, we are in the process of verifying all contacts made by Bonner and Associates with respect to this project.

Today, ACCCE's senior management has begun contacting these affected parties. We are contacting the community organizations whose good names were misused. We are also meeting with the staffs of the three members of Congress who received falsified letters.

About ACCCE

The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity (ACCCE) is a non-profit, non-partisan partnership of companies involved in producing electricity from coal. Because coal is America's most abundant energy resource, ACCCE supports energy policies that balance coal's vital role in meeting our country's growing need for affordable and reliable electricity with the need to protect the environment. ACCCE also advocates for the development and deployment of advanced clean coal technologies that will produce electricity with near-zero emissions. Headquartered in Alexandria, VA. For more information, visit www.cleancoalusa.org or www.americaspower.org