

Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Submitted via online form and email: mail@ogec.oregon.gov

RE: Ethics Complaint against Yamhill County Commissioner Casey Kulla

To Whom It May Concern,

Please consider this a formal complaint against Yamhill County Commissioner Casey Kulla for violating the provisions of law that prohibit a public official from using the position or office held for financial gain as defined in ORS 244.040(1). Attached are supporting documents related to this complaint.

Casey Kulla is a current Yamhill County Commissioner, with a term expiring on December 31, 2022. On November 29, 2022, Commissioner Kulla registered with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission as a lobbyist for Oregon Wild. In his registration, Kulla listed his government email address, government office, and government phone number as his contact information. These resources are paid for by taxpayers and the use of them for personal, financial gain is prohibited under ORS 244.040.

ORS 244.040(1) prohibits every public official from using or attempting to use the position held as a public official to obtain a financial benefit. Further, the use of a government's time or resources (computers, email, phones) constitutes a prohibited use of the public official's position.

In the attached documentation, please find Commissioner Kulla's registration on 11/29/22, the details he submitted with his registration on 11/29/22, and a screenshot of Oregon Wild's website that lists under 'Staff' Casey Kulla's paid position as 'State Forest Policy Coordinator'. In the staff listing, Kulla refers to his term as a Yamhill County Commissioner in the past-tense, as if he is no longer serving. This is inaccurate and demonstrates an effort to conceal a direct violation of ORS 244.040 as well as other concerns regarding conflicts of interest. Please also note that on the Oregon Wild webpage featuring Casey Kulla is the email address: ck@oregonwild.org. Commissioner Kulla purposefully registered as a lobbyist using county resources, despite having resources available that are directly related to his paid, private position.

Given the above, one could reasonably assume that Commissioner Kulla was given this private, paid position because he is a county commissioner. ORS 244.040(1) specifically refers to prohibition of a financial benefit that would not otherwise be available but for the position held by the public official. The evidence supports that Commissioner Kulla was offered this position because of his role as a county commissioner.

I appreciate your time and attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hammer
23701 Wallace Rd NW
Salem, OR 97304
Yamhill County
(971) 382-5133

Report Results - Detail

▶ Export to CSV

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10 ▼

Registra...	Last Name ^	First Name	Client N...	Registra...	Registra...	
2022-2023	Kulla (/OGE...	Casey	Oregon Wild	Active	11-29-2022	View Details ...

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Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Oregon Government Ethics Commission

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Electronic Filing System

Lobbyist Details

Information

Name	Casey Kulla
Address	535 NE 5th Street
City, State, Zip Code	McMinnville OR 97128
Phone	(503) 434-7501 x7501
Email	kullac@co.yamhill.or.us
Role	Lobbyist
Total Expended	\$0.00
Total Reimbursed	\$0.00
Net Expenditures	\$0.00

Legislative Assembly Members

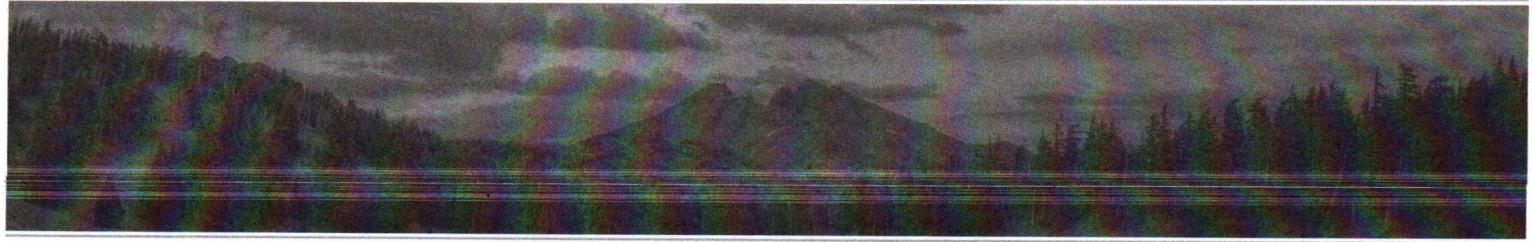
Last Name	First Name
<i>No Data to Report</i>	

Client Registrations

Business Name	Registration Date	Termination Date
Oregon Wild	11-29-2022	

Outstanding Penalties

Year	Quarter	Total Amount Due	Date Due
<i>No Data to Report</i>			



About Us

Casey Kulla

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e-mail: ck@oregonwild.org (mailto:ck@oregonwild.org)
phone: (971) 279-8827



Casey joined Oregon Wild in 2022, after serving a term as Yamhill County Commissioner. Born and raised on the Oregon Coast, Casey spent many hours among the towering Sitka spruce of the Coast Range public lands and in the cold saltwater, surfing among the seals. These early years in the magnificent wild taught Casey the power of our wild places and the need for human connection to the bigger world. Casey lived in Bellingham, Washington with his wife Katie for seven years while in undergraduate and graduate school, earning a BS in Biochemistry and a Masters in Forest Ecology. While in school and between schools, Katie and Casey lived at Holden Village in the snowy remote North Cascades of Washington, a former

mining town turned retreat center. Casey ran saws, drove trucks, and served as plumber. His graduate research asked the question "what is happening in the glacier-fed watershed for Holden, and will climate change alter the timing of hydroelectric power and drinking water?"

Immediately after graduate school, Katie and Casey started Oakhill Organics in the Willamette Valley, a year-round, certified organic, diverse farm operation. Farming on Grand Island, a river island in the Willamette, is amazing but comes with major floods, and underlying all that topsoil is sand and gravel. Katie and Casey organized the community to oppose a major gravel quarry that sought to eliminate hundreds of acres of farmland and disrupt both surface and groundwater cycles.

In 2018, Casey ran for Yamhill County Commissioner on a platform of local climate action, fixing bridges, and supporting marginalized community members like trans youth. Casey worked with state agencies, Congressional staff, tribal council, local elected officials, and groups from Oregon Wild to the Street Trust on forestry,

conservation, transportation, and economic justice issues. Casey joined Oregon Wild as the State Forest Policy Coordinator because he knows that healthy conifer forests are key to water, wild animals, and our healthy existence in this place.

Casey and his family spend a lot of time riding bikes, foraging for mushrooms, and swimming and surfing in the wild places of Oregon.

[STAFF \(/ABOUT/STAFF\)](#)

[BOARD OF DIRECTORS \(/ABOUT/BOARD-DIRECTORS\)](#)

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[STORE \(HTTPS://OREGON-WILD.SQUARE.SITE/\)](https://oregon-wild.square.site/)