

**OFFICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE  
CHARITIES DIVISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**American Forest Foundation  
2000 M Street NW, Suite 550  
Washington, DC 20036**

***Respondent***

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**Administrative Proceeding  
Number: LC-24-6834**

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**CONSENT AGREEMENT**

I.

The Charities Division of the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office ("Division"), having the authority to administer and to provide for the enforcement of all provisions of the Mississippi Charitable Solicitations Act ("Act"), and American Forest Foundation ("Respondent") do hereby enter into this Consent Agreement in resolution of the following allegations by the Division of violations of certain provisions of the Act:

- 1) Respondent is a "charitable organization" as defined in Section 79-11-501(a)(i) of the Act;
- 2) Between November 15, 2023, and March 29, 2024, the Respondent solicited contributions from individuals in Mississippi;
- 3) Between November 15, 2023, and March 29, 2024, no effective registration statement of the Respondent was on file with the Division as required by the Act;
- 4) Therefore, Respondent solicited contributions from Mississippi residents during the period in question in violation of Section 79-11-503(1) of the Act; and
- 5) Respondent has three (3) previous offenses for soliciting contributions from Mississippi residents during a period of non-registration that include the following:

- a) The first offense resulted in a penalty in the amount of Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$500.00) that was received by the Division in April of 2010;
- b) The second offense resulted in a penalty in the amount of Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$500.00) that was received by the Division in March of 2019; and
- c) The third offense resulted in a penalty in the amount of One Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00) that was received by the Division in March of 2023.

## II.

Respondent, under the terms of this Consent Agreement and solely for the purpose of resolving the foregoing allegations, stipulates without a hearing to the matters set forth above in Paragraph I. Respondent consents to the issuance of this Consent Agreement and further consents to and agrees to the undertakings contained herein with no formal administrative hearing and determination of wrongdoing. Furthermore, the undersigned agent for Respondent acknowledges that he/she has been lawfully vested with the authority to enter into this Consent Agreement on behalf of Respondent.

## III.

THEREFORE, in consideration of a final resolution of the matters set forth herein, the Division and Respondent hereby agree and stipulate as follows:

1. Respondent stipulates to the jurisdiction of the Division as to all matters contained herein under the authority of the Act and acknowledges that the issuance of this Consent Agreement is solely for the purpose of resolving the matters set forth herein.
2. The Division shall impose a penalty upon the Respondent in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$7,500.00). Respondent shall remit payment to the Division, payable to the "Mississippi Secretary of State" upon execution of this Agreement.

3. This Consent Agreement is in resolution of the matters contained herein. As a result of this Consent Agreement, the matters contained herein cannot be used as a basis for action by the Division except in determining any penalty as may be imposed by the Division for any future violations of the Act committed by the Respondent and as set forth below.
4. Respondent agrees that it will comply with the provisions of the Act as currently in effect or as may be subsequently amended.

IV.

In the event Respondent fails or neglects to comply with any of the terms, stipulations or undertakings set forth in this Consent Agreement, the Division may, without notice to Respondent, unilaterally rescind this Agreement and institute any legal or administrative proceedings it deems appropriate including, but not limited to, proceedings to address the matters set forth herein.

MICHAEL WATSON  
Secretary of State

By: Ashley S. Gilmore  
ASHLEY S. GILMORE  
Senior Attorney  
Charities Division

Date: 4/24/2024

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION  
2000 M Street NW, Suite 550  
Washington, DC 20036

By: Jill S. Harris  
Sign Name

Print Name: Jill S. Harris

Title: Exec Vice President Finance & Operations

Date: 4/19/24