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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Mi Familia Vota; et al.,  
Plaintiffs,  
  
and  
  
DSCC and DCCC,  
Plaintiff-Intervenors,  
  
v.  
  
Adrian Fontes, in his official capacity as  
Arizona Secretary of State; et al.,  
Defendants,  
  
and  
  
RNC and NRSC,  
Defendant-Intervenors.

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Case No. CV-21-01423-DWL

**PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO  
COMPEL DISCOVERY FROM  
THIRD-PARTY SUBPOENA  
RECIPIENTS PURSUANT TO FED.  
R. CIV. P. 37 AND 45**

1 Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 37 and 45 and this Court’s order, ECF  
2 No. 281, Plaintiffs Mi Familia Vota, Arizona Coalition for Change, Living United for  
3 Change in Arizona, and League of Conservation Voters, Inc. d/b/a Chispa AZ (jointly,  
4 “Plaintiffs”), hereby move the Court for an order compelling certain third parties who  
5 communicated with non-party Arizona legislators to produce documents responsive to the  
6 Rule 45 subpoenas that Plaintiffs served on or about August 28, 2023 (“the Subpoenas”).  
7 *See* Rubin Decl. Exs. 1-4. Plaintiffs have included the information required by Local Civil  
8 Rule 37.1 in the declaration filed concurrently in support of this motion and the exhibits  
9 attached thereto.

### 10 INTRODUCTION

11 Plaintiffs allege that the Arizona legislature enacted S.B. 1485 to deny voters of color  
12 full and equal access to the political process. This dispute concerns Plaintiffs’ latest efforts  
13 to obtain discovery to support their claims.

14 In 2022, Plaintiffs served several non-party current and former state legislators with  
15 Rule 45 subpoenas seeking documents concerning S.B. 1485 and related legislation. In its  
16 July 18 and August 7, 2023 Orders (ECF Nos. 237 and 242), the Court declined to order  
17 production of 196 responsive documents, including 38 communications (the “third-party  
18 communications”) between those legislators and third parties, which the legislators had  
19 withheld on legislative privilege grounds. But the Court raised the possibility that “the state  
20 legislative privilege would not be implicated” if Plaintiffs sought the third-party  
21 communications by serving “additional subpoenas to third parties identified in the  
22 legislators’ privilege log.” ECF No. 237, at 22-23. Plaintiffs then did just that, but certain  
23 of the third-party subpoena recipients and current and former legislators, Former Senator  
24 Michelle Ugenti-Rita, Former Senator Kelly Townsend, Senator JD Mesnard, Speaker Ben  
25 Toma, Former Representative Becky Nutt, and Senator Rick Gray (“the Legislators”), have  
26 objected that production even by such third parties is precluded by the state legislative  
27 privilege. Certain third-party subpoena recipients have also asserted a putative First  
28

1 Amendment privilege to production of responsive documents. These objections are  
2 unfounded.<sup>1</sup>

3 *First*, the legislative privilege does not and cannot apply to documents in the  
4 possession of third-party non-legislators. Confidentiality concerns do not justify applying  
5 legislative privilege to communications between legislators and third parties. Worries about  
6 distraction and burden are likewise inapplicable when the legislators are free to ignore  
7 subpoenas that are not directed to them. In upholding the legislators' assertion of privilege  
8 for documents in *their* possession, moreover, the Court gave some weight to the possibility  
9 that these documents would be otherwise available by service of subpoenas on third parties.  
10 Shielding the documents in possession of third parties from disclosure now does not make  
11 sense in light of the purposes of the legislative privilege. In the alternative, any qualified  
12 privilege the legislators assert must yield to important federal interests because the factors  
13 the Court previously cited to deny a motion to compel disclosure by the legislators weigh  
14 in favor of granting this motion to compel production by the third-party subpoena recipients.

15 *Second*, as for the assertion by some third-party subpoena recipients of a First-  
16 Amendment privilege, this Court has repeatedly recognized that such a privilege does not  
17 apply to communications between members of a political organization and public officials.  
18 In any event, the objecting parties have not explained why disclosure of the sought-after  
19 documents will chill their expression. Accordingly, the Court should grant Plaintiffs'  
20 motion to compel.

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21  
22 <sup>1</sup> Third-party subpoena recipients Dan Farley, Mark Lewis, Aimee Yentes, and the  
23 Free Enterprise Club ("FEC") also initially objected to the Subpoenas on the grounds they  
24 were overbroad and sought irrelevant information. In addition, Farley and Lewis asserted  
25 that whether the communications at issue are shielded from discovery has already been  
26 litigated. Plaintiffs understand that Farley, Lewis, Yentes, and the FEC have abandoned  
27 such additional objections because they did not raise them in the parties' Joint Statement of  
28 the discovery dispute. In any event, those additional objections are frivolous. This Court  
has already acknowledged the relevance of documents sought by the subpoenas and has  
suggested that Plaintiffs' service of subpoenas to third parties may be a potential mechanism  
to obtain the documents at issue here.

## BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs allege that the Arizona legislature passed S.B. 1485 for the purpose of denying voters of color their equal right to vote. In denying Defendants' motion to dismiss, the Court held that Plaintiffs plausibly alleged intentional discrimination based on (1) evidence of S.B. 1485's disparate effects on voters of color; (2) statements made by legislators during its passage about the need to ensure "quality" voting; and (3) departures from ordinary legislative procedure after the 2020 election, including running a sham election audit despite having no evidence of fraud. ECF No. 154, at 52-59.

This Court has repeatedly acknowledged that legislators' contemporaneous statements may be important evidence of intentional discrimination under the test set forth in *Arlington Heights*. See ECF No. 154, at 55 (noting that such statements can be "probative when evaluating a discriminatory purpose claim"); *id.* at 56-57 (statement concerning "quality" voting "provides plausible support for Plaintiffs' overall claim"); ECF No. 184 at 18 (emphasizing that the Court "already addressed, and rejected," argument that legislators' statements are irrelevant to discriminatory intent); *id.* at 23 & n.11 (reiterating that "[c]ommunications with government actors are potentially relevant 'contemporary statements' under *Arlington Heights*," and citing cases recognizing the same).

Acknowledging the potential significance of legislators' statements, Plaintiffs sought documents and communications relating to S.B. 1485 and related laws and their enactment from the Arizona House of Representatives, the Arizona Senate, and the Legislators. Through an extensive meet-and-confer process, Plaintiffs worked with the Legislators to limit or narrow several of the requests and minimize the burden imposed on the Legislators and their staffs.

The Legislators continued to assert the legislative privilege over 196 documents, 38 of which were documents sent to or from third parties. Plaintiffs moved to compel production of these documents. ECF No. 197.

1 After issuing a tentative ruling in the Legislators’ favor, ECF No. 232, this Court  
2 heard oral argument. ECF No. 235. During the hearing, the Court posited whether, for the  
3 38 documents that the Legislators sent to or received from third parties, Plaintiffs could  
4 “look at all the nonlegislators who are on the other side . . . and then subpoena them.” ECF  
5 No. 272 at 8 (July 17, 2023 Hr’g Tr.).

6 Although the Court recognized that Plaintiffs’ requested documents concerned  
7 legislator motivations at the “heart of this litigation” and the “serious” federal interests in  
8 protecting voting rights, the Court then denied Plaintiffs’ motion to compel production by  
9 the Legislators. ECF No. 237 at 19-20. As to the documents concerning the Legislators’  
10 communications with third parties, the Court’s denial was based on two factors. The Court  
11 cited the availability of other evidence, including the “seeming” availability of the  
12 documents from third parties. *Id.* at 22-23. The Court explained:

13 [W]ith respect to one subset of the withheld documents—the  
14 communications with third parties outside the legislative branch—the  
15 second factor weighs against disclosure for the additional reason that  
16 Plaintiffs may have other tools at their disposal to obtain the documents  
17 at issue. As part of the discovery process in this case Plaintiffs issued a  
18 subpoena to non-party The Republican Party of Arizona (‘RPA’). Among  
19 other things, that subpoena seeks certain ‘communications between  
20 members of the RPA and members of the Arizona legislature.’ (Doc. 184  
21 at 12.) Notably, Legislators have not sought to assert any state legislative  
22 privilege as to *that* subpoena. Furthermore, during oral argument, both  
23 sides seemed to agree that it would be possible for Plaintiffs to issue  
24 additional subpoenas to other third parties identified in Legislators’  
25 privilege log and that the state legislative privilege would not be  
26 implicated by such an approach (although the recipients might have other  
27 grounds for resisting compliance). The seeming availability of alternative  
28 avenues for obtaining communications between Legislators and third  
parties—which would not raise the significant concerns raised by a  
subpoena issued directly to Legislators—is another reason why the  
second factor weighs against disclosure.

1 ECF No. 237 at 22-23 (footnote omitted).<sup>2</sup> *See also id.* at 24 n.11 (“Additionally, to the  
2 extent the fifth factor does not cut as decisively in Legislators’ favor when it comes to third-  
3 party communications (as contrasted with how it applies to internal communications), this  
4 does not affect the overall balancing calculus because the second factor cuts more decisively  
5 in Legislators’ favor when it comes to third-party communications (due to the potential  
6 availability of other mechanisms for obtaining those communications.)”).

7 The Court also cited undue burden and distraction of the Legislators in responding  
8 to the Subpoenas as justification for upholding the Legislators’ assertions of a state  
9 legislative privilege, noting that “[h]ere, . . . Legislators are current and former elected  
10 officials with a broad range of legislative duties. Requiring them to produce  
11 communications touching upon the legislative process would constitute the precise sort of  
12 interference that the state legislative privilege was designed to prevent.” *Id.* at 24-25.

13 The Court then conducted an *in camera* review of the documents and held that the  
14 “withheld documents are not more relevant and/or valuable to Plaintiffs’ claims than the  
15 Court [previously] assumed.” ECF No. 242.

16 Consistent with the Court’s discussion, Plaintiffs then served the Subpoenas on a  
17 number of third-party individuals. Two recipients, Jessie Armendt and Steve Barclay,  
18 indicated that they possessed responsive documents and did not object to the Subpoenas.  
19 Two recipients, J. Charles Coughlin and Cathi Herrod, indicated that they did not possess  
20 legislator communications, and several recipients—including Aimee Yentes, Mark Lewis,  
21 and Dan Farley—asserted legislative privilege, First Amendment privilege, and other  
22 objections to production of documents.<sup>3</sup> Yentes, an employee of the FEC, objected to  
23 Plaintiffs’ subpoena on the ground that communications made in her capacity as an  
24 employee of the FEC were not in her possession, custody, or control. While preserving their

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25 <sup>2</sup> The Court noted that it “use[d] the phrase ‘seeming availability’ because it [did] not mean  
26 to express any definitive conclusions about whether the state legislative privilege would be  
27 implicated by a subpoena issued to a third party to obtain that party’s communications with  
28 a member of a state legislature.” *Id.* at 23 n.10.

<sup>3</sup> One recipient passed away since receiving the Subpoena.

1 position that Yentes' objection was meritless, Plaintiffs thereafter served a subpoena on the  
2 FEC to resolve that particular objection. The FEC then raised its own objections based on  
3 legislative and First Amendment privilege. Lewis, Farley, and the FEC have produced  
4 privilege logs generally describing the authors and subject matters of the communications  
5 at issue. See Rubin Decl. Exhibits 2-4.

6 After learning about the Subpoenas, the Legislators asserted that the Court's prior  
7 Orders declining to order production by the Legislators also foreclose production by the  
8 third-party subpoena recipients of responsive communications with legislators.

9 Plaintiffs met and conferred with the third-party subpoena recipients and the  
10 Legislators to no avail. The parties therefore submitted a joint summary of the discovery  
11 dispute to apprise the Court of the outstanding privilege issues. ECF No. 280 at 1. This  
12 Court granted Plaintiffs leave to move to compel, concluding that the dispute would be  
13 better resolved through motion practice. ECF No. 281.

#### 14 **ARGUMENT**

15 This Court should compel the production by the third-party subpoena recipients of  
16 responsive communications between Legislators and the third parties. The legislative  
17 privilege does not apply to communications the Plaintiffs seek from non-legislator third  
18 parties because subpoenas directed to such non-legislator third parties do not implicate  
19 confidentiality or distraction concerns. Moreover, even if a qualified legislative privilege  
20 were applicable to the responsive documents sought from the third-party subpoena  
21 recipients, such qualified privilege must yield to important federal interests. The Legislators  
22 face no burden to respond to the Subpoenas and Plaintiffs were previously denied disclosure  
23 based in part on the possibility that the documents were otherwise available. As for the First  
24 Amendment privilege, it does not apply to the Subpoena recipients' external  
25 communications with Legislators (or legislators' communications with the third parties),  
26 and in any event, the recipients have not shown why disclosure of these documents will  
27 chill their expression.



**I. The Legislative Privilege Does Not Bar *the Third-Party Subpoena Recipients’ Production of Their Communications with Legislators or Legislative Staff.***

The legislative privilege does not apply to bar production by the non-legislator subpoena recipients of their communications with the Legislators or legislative staff. The objecting parties cannot invoke the Court’s cited rationale behind the privilege—ensuring legislative independence—to justify application of such a privilege. ECF No. 237 at 13 (citing *United States v. Gillock*, 445 U.S. 360, 371 (1980)). Courts have cited two tenets that the legislative privilege protects: open discussion and freedom from distraction. *See, e.g., Gillock*, 445 U.S. at 373; *Lee v. City of Los Angeles*, 908 F.3d 1175, 1187 (9th Cir. 2018)). Neither apply here.

As this Court recognized, protecting communications that the Legislators *chose* to have with third parties does not facilitate candor in intra-legislator discussions. ECF No. 237, at 14 (noting that “confidentiality interests are less discernible” in the context of communications between legislators and third parties); *see also League of Women Voters of Fla., Inc. v. Lee*, 340 F.R.D. 446, 454 n.2 (N.D. Fla. 2021) (“[B]ecause confidentiality is not the legislative privilege’s animating concern, the privilege would not prevent Plaintiffs from asking the third parties with which the Legislators communicated about those communications.”); *Cano v. Davis*, 193 F. Supp. 2d 1177, 1179 (C.D. Cal. 2002) (“The legislative privilege does not bar . . . a third party non-legislator, from testifying to conversations with legislators and their staffs.”). As courts have recognized in the First Amendment context, disclosing communications between public officials and third-party subpoena recipients “would not force [the subpoena recipients] to disclose information that is otherwise secret.” *Sol v. Whiting*, 2013 WL 12098752, at \*3 (D. Ariz. Dec. 11, 2013).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> In their section of the joint summary of the parties’ discovery dispute, the Legislators cited *Miller v. Transamerican Press, Inc.*, 709 F.2d 524, 528 (9th Cir. 1983), to argue that the privilege protects their “preliminary opinions from public disclosure and critique.” ECF No. 280, at 5. But that case concerned compelling a former U.S. Congressman to speak about material he inserted in the Congressional record. While the court recognized a speech interest in the federal legislative forum, it emphasized that the Speech and Debate Clause



1 That same logic applies to the issue of whether the legislative privilege may be invoked to  
 2 prevent production by the non-legislator subpoena recipients.

3 Moreover, because confidentiality concerns are not implicated here, *see League of*  
 4 *Women Voters*, 340 F.R.D. at 454 n.2, pursuing third-party discovery is not, as the objectors  
 5 contend, “gamesmanship,” or in any way improper. ECF No. 280, at 5. The information in  
 6 the privilege logs that the Legislators originally produced is not confidential, and litigants  
 7 commonly use such disclosed information to identify other, non-privileged, sources of  
 8 discovery to pursue. Moreover, the suggestion of any impropriety here ignores that the  
 9 Court itself recognized the “seeming availability” of “alternative avenues” for Plaintiffs to  
 10 obtain these documents. ECF No. 237 at 22-23, 24 n.11.

11 Accusations of “gamesmanship” are especially unjustified here because the  
 12 Subpoenas do not implicate the fundamental concern of the privilege: preventing legislator  
 13 burden or distraction. This Court recognized that the privilege serves to shield *legislators*  
 14 from “divert[ing] their time, energy, and attention from their legislative tasks to defend the  
 15 litigation.” ECF No. 237, at 13 (quoting *Lee*, 908 F.3d at 1187). But the Legislators have  
 16 no obligation to respond to Subpoenas issued to *non-legislators*. Negative consequences of  
 17 compelled disclosure cited by courts—“requiring legislators to negotiate protective orders  
 18 or to suffer contempt proceedings,” *La Union Del Pueblo Entero v. Abbott*, 68 F.4th 228,  
 19 233 (5th Cir. 2023), or impeding the “functioning of the legislature,” *In re N. D. Legis.*  
 20 *Assembly*, 70 F.4th 460, 464 (8th Cir. 2023)—are not implicated here. Indeed, as discussed  
 21 in Plaintiffs’ summary of the discovery dispute, some non-legislators, like Lewis and  
 22 Farley, authored and still possess many of the requested communications: emails urging  
 23 legislators to pass legislation. ECF No. 280, at 3; Rubin Decl. Ex. 7. They cannot shield  
 24 their documents from production simply by sending them to legislators.

25  
 26 of the U.S. Constitution imposes an “absolute bar to interference” with legislative activity.  
 27 *Miller*, 709 F.2d at 528. As this Court has recognized, however, the Ninth Circuit has held  
 28 that the *state* legislative privilege is *qualified*, rather than absolute, in scope. ECF No. 237  
 at 8, 11 n.4 (citing *Lee*, 908 F.3d at 1175, 1187-88).

Any burden that the Legislators face by choosing to object to the Subpoenas is self-inflicted and cannot be the basis to invoke legislative privilege. Legislators reached out to affirmatively interject themselves into Plaintiffs’ meet-and-confer discussions with the subpoena recipients. The Legislators’ claims of distraction from legislative duties also ring hollow given that at least one legislator, Speaker Toma, affirmatively initiated his own lawsuit concerning S.B. 1485 and intervened in other litigation concerning other challenged legislation. For example, Judge Bolton recently held that Speaker Toma waived legislative privilege when he “voluntarily interven[ed]” in a case challenging the constitutionality of H.B. 2243 and H.B. 2492. *Mi Familia Vota v. Fontes*, 2023 WL 8183557, at \*2 (D. Ariz. Sept. 14, 2023). And Speaker Toma has recently filed a lawsuit concerning implementation of S.B. 1485. *See* Compl. ¶¶ 41-44, *Peterson v. Fontes*, No. CV-2024-001942 (Az. Super. Ct., Maricopa Cnty, Jan. 31, 2024); Plfs.’ Mot. for Prelim. Inj. at 8-11, *Peterson v. Fontes*, No. CV-2024-001942 (Az. Super. Ct., Maricopa Cnty, Jan. 31, 2024). At the very least, having chosen to file his own lawsuit concerning S.B. 1485 (and to intervene in another case challenging the constitutionality of H.B. 2243 and H.B. 2492), Speaker Toma should not be heard to invoke any “distraction” concerns underlying legislative privilege.

Even if the Legislators could invoke a privilege in objecting to the third-party Subpoenas—which they cannot—the privilege would be a qualified one, and must yield to the “serious” federal interests at issue in this litigation. ECF No. 237, at 20 (quoting *Harris v. Ariz. Indep. Redistricting Comm’n*, 993 F. Supp. 2d 1042, 1071 (D. Ariz. 2014)). The Court has previously applied this test, ECF No. 137 at 15-16 (quoting *Puente Arizona v. Arpaio*, 314 F.R.D. 664, 672 (D. Ariz. 2016), and the Legislators have conceded that it applies. ECF No. 202 at 8. Notwithstanding the out-of-circuit case cited by the Legislators in their section of the joint discovery dispute summary, *see Pernell v. Fla. Bd. of Governors of State Univ.*, 84 F.4th 1339, 1345 (11th Cir. 2023), no binding precedent requires this Court to abandon application of this test, which has been embraced by another court in this very district. *Puente Ariz*, 314 F.R.D. 664 at 672.

1 Applying the five-factor test in its previous order, this Court acknowledged the  
 2 relevance of the requested documents and recognized the gravity of the stakes in voter-  
 3 rights litigation. ECF No. 237, at 19.<sup>5</sup> The Court concluded that the remaining two factors—  
 4 the availability of other evidence and the purposes of the privilege—weighed against  
 5 disclosure when plaintiffs were seeking documents from *Legislators*. *Id.* at 20-25. But  
 6 where, as here, the subpoenas seek production from third-party non-legislators, the Court’s  
 7 prior reasoning tips the scale in the opposite direction.

8 There is no way to otherwise obtain the documents the Plaintiffs seek, and the  
 9 documents cannot be withheld now based on invocation by the subpoena recipients or the  
 10 Legislators of a chilling effect or a self-imposed burden. The Court denied Plaintiffs’  
 11 previous motion to compel based, in part, on the possibility that these documents were  
 12 available through alternative means such as service of the very Subpoenas at issue here. *See*  
 13 ECF No. 237 at 23-24. Allowing the assertion of a legislative privilege over the documents  
 14 in the possession, custody, or control of the third-party subpoena recipients would shut the  
 15 door on the only available avenue for obtaining these materials after the Court found that  
 16 the existence of this avenue weighed against obtaining the documents from the legislators  
 17 themselves. As discussed, moreover, disclosure does not implicate confidentiality and  
 18 distraction concerns when subpoenas are issued to non-legislator third parties. Reapplying  
 19 the five-factor test in this “distinct” situation, *id.* at 23 n.10, supports the conclusion that  
 20 Plaintiffs’ “serious” federal interests in the documents overcome any reason to apply any  
 21 qualified privilege here. *See* ECF No. 197, at 11.

22 In sum, the legislative privilege does not apply to documents that Plaintiffs seek to  
 23 compel from non-legislator third parties, who would not be burdened by producing them.

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24 <sup>5</sup> After conducting an in camera review of the documents, this Court did not, as  
 25 Legislators claim, confirm that “none of the withheld documents were critical to Plaintiffs’  
 26 case.” *See* ECF No. 280, at 6. Instead, this Court held that “the withheld documents are not  
 27 more relevant and/or valuable to Plaintiffs’ claim than the Court assumed when considering  
 28 them in the abstract.” ECF No. 242, at 1. And when initially considering the documents, the  
 Court noted that “[w]hat motivated the Arizona legislature to enact S.B. 1485 is at the heart  
 of this litigation.” ECF No. 237, at 19.

1 Even if legislative privilege applied to documents in the possession, custody, or control of  
 2 such third-parties, the privilege would be qualified, and is outweighed by Plaintiffs'  
 3 interests.

4 **II. The First Amendment Privilege Does Not Apply to Communications Between  
 The Legislators And Third Parties.**

5 Some of the subpoena recipients—Farley, Lewis, and the FEC—also assert First  
 6 Amendment privilege objections to Plaintiffs' subpoenas. But the First Amendment  
 7 privilege is clearly inapplicable. Animating the First Amendment privilege is the concern  
 8 that unfettered discovery into an association's *internal* communications will deter members  
 9 from speaking freely. *See Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, 591 F.3d 1147, 1162 (9th Cir. 2010).  
 10 When a member of an association discloses the contents of such communications, especially  
 11 to a public official, those communications are no longer private. *See Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*  
 12 *v. Tex. Alcoholic Beverage Comm'n*, 2016 WL 5922315, at \*7 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 11, 2016)  
 13 (observing that there is no First Amendment right to “secretly” “lobby the government”).  
 14 The First Amendment privilege thus protects the “identity of association members [and]  
 15 internal communications—not communications with third parties, let alone public  
 16 officials.” *Del Sol*, 2013 WL 12098752, at \*3. Regardless of whether, as the FEC claims,  
 17 any individuals communicating with legislators “believed” they were speaking  
 18 confidentially at the time of the communications, such a belief provides no basis for  
 19 invoking the First Amendment privilege. ECF No. 280, at 7.

20 Applying *Perry*, this Court has recognized that “if the withheld documents involve  
 21 external communications between the [the associations'] custodians and third parties, there  
 22 would be no potential claim of First Amendment privilege.” ECF No. 269, at 26; *see also*  
 23 ECF No. 184, at 12-13 (rejecting Republican Party of Arizona's privilege invocation  
 24 because it did not “explain why such [external] communications could be considered  
 25 privileged from disclosure under the First Amendment”). Farley, Lewis, and the FEC seek  
 26 to shield from production the very types of documents this Court—applying binding Ninth  
 27 Circuit precedent—has already deemed outside the scope of any First Amendment  
 28

1 privilege: communications between members of associations and legislators. For that  
 2 reason, the FEC’s reliance on *In re Kincaid*, 2023 WL 5933341 (D.D.C. Aug. 9, 2023), an  
 3 out-of-circuit district court case, is misplaced. *See* ECF No. 280, at 7. The objectors’  
 4 assertion of First Amendment privilege with respect to external communications fails as a  
 5 matter of Ninth Circuit law.

6 But even if their assertion of First Amendment privilege to try to shield external  
 7 communications from production was not barred by Ninth Circuit law, the assertion of such  
 8 a privilege by Lewis, Farley, and the FEC fails. First, as this Court has explained, “[u]nder  
 9 Ninth Circuit law, ‘[t]he party asserting the privilege must demonstrate a prima facie  
 10 showing of arguable first amendment infringement,’” which “‘requires [the privilege  
 11 proponent] to demonstrate that enforcement of the discovery requests will result in (1)  
 12 harassment, membership withdrawal, or discouragement of new members, or (2) other  
 13 consequences which objectively suggest an impact on, or chilling of, the members’  
 14 associational rights.’” ECF No. 269 at 22 (quoting *Perry*, 591 F.3d at 1160 (cleaned up)).  
 15 Nothing in objectors’ privilege logs—which merely describe the authors, recipients, and  
 16 subject matters of the communications—mentions, much less “demonstrate[s],” any such  
 17 putative consequence of disclosure. *See* Rubin Decl. Exs. 7, 9. The same is true of the  
 18 objecting parties’ responses and objections. Farley and Lewis merely state that “if citizens  
 19 are subjected to badgering it will clearly inhibit communications with elected officials.” *See*  
 20 Rubin Decl. Ex 6. at 2. That conclusory statement fails to establish that disclosure would  
 21 subject Farley and Lewis “to fears of threats, harassment or reprisal.” *Wal-Mart Stores*,  
 22 2016 WL 5922315, at \*8. Nor does it provide “objective and articulable facts” about the  
 23 basis for such consequences “beyond broad allegations or subjective fears.” *Ward v.*  
 24 *Thompson*, 630 F. Supp. 3d 1140, 1153 (D. Ariz. 2022) (quoting *Brock v. Loc. 375,*  
 25 *Plumbers Int’l Union of Am., AFL-CIO*, 860 F.2d 346, 350 n.1 (9th Cir. 1988)).  
 26 “[C]onclusory statements, alone, do not establish a *prima facie* showing of First  
 27  
 28

Amendment infringement.” ECF No. 184, at 12; *see also United States v. Town of Colorado City*, 2014 WL 5465104, at \*2 (D. Ariz. Oct. 28, 2014).

In short, Plaintiffs seek disclosure of external organization communications with public officials not protected by the First Amendment. Moreover, none of the objectors have offered anything to explain how disclosure of Plaintiffs’ requested documents will chill associational speech. For each of these reasons, the assertions of First Amendment privilege should be overruled.

### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter an order to compel the subpoena recipients to produce the documents they have withheld.

### CERTIFICATION OF COUNSEL

Undersigned counsel certify that they have attempted to resolve this discovery dispute through personal consultation (via written communications and telephonic conferences) and sincere efforts as required by Local Rule of Civil Procedure 7.2(j). Despite these good-faith efforts, the parties have been unable to resolve their dispute.

Dated: March 11, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on March 11, 2024, a copy of the foregoing **MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY FROM THIRD-PARTY SUBPOENA RECIPIENTS** was filed electronically with the Arizona District Court Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing, which will provide a Notice of Electronic Filing to all CM/ECF registrants.

/s/Coree E. Neumeyer