



December 29, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the California State Grange,

I have received multiple inquiries and complaints arising from actions and statements by Robert McFarland regarding the existing and future leadership of the California State Grange. I am writing to confirm that Mr. McFarland is no longer the authorized representative of the California State Grange. His organization is not a Grange, and it is not a part of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. Mr. McFarland officially disaffiliated himself from the National Grange in November 2013. I understand and deeply regret that Mr. McFarland's actions have caused confusion and anxiety.

As you may already be aware, the National Grange filed a trademark infringement action with the Eastern District of California in March 2014. Earlier this year, the court held that McFarland violated the National Grange's trademark rights by continuing to use the name "California State Grange." The district court issued an injunction on September 30, 2015 ordering Mr. McFarland to stop using "Grange" and other Grange trademarks. Nevertheless, Mr. McFarland has continued to represent his organization as "CSG" and use other confusing language falsely implying that his organization represents, or is the successor to, the California State Grange. **It is not.**

We believe the district court's order should be more inclusive, and the National Grange has appealed the district court's decision to the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to make it so. Mr. McFarland has also appealed the district court's

decision, arguing that there should not be any injunction at all, and has made a request that the injunction not be enforced until the appeal is heard by the Court of Appeals. Yesterday, the National Grange filed an opposition to McFarland's motion. The opposition was accompanied by two declarations, one of them signed by me. [The opposition](#) and the two declarations are available here [Ed Kowski Declaration](#), [Betsy Huber Declaration](#). exhibits here [Ed Kowski Exhibits](#). My declaration sets forth my observations about the serious harm and confusion caused by Mr. McFarland's recent actions.

The California State Grange and the National Grange believe that Mr. McFarland's recent actions violate the district court's September 30 injunction. The National Grange informs me that those actions also give rise to multiple claims that the National Grange intends to assert in the near future. I will send you links to further pleadings in the trademark litigation as they are filed and keep you informed as to the progress in the enforcement of the injunction. In the meantime, please continue to send me communications from Mr. McFarland's organization holding itself out as a Grange or claiming authority over Granges in California.

Your understanding and support are greatly valued.

Fraternally yours,

  


**Ed Kowski, President, Master**  
California State Grange  
chartered in 1873  
760-310-6500

[Trademark Opposition](#)

[Ed Kowski Declaration](#)

[Ed Kowski Exhibits](#)

**Betsy Huber Declaration**

**California State Grange Web Site**

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