

Wannabe HD 55 Candidate Mary Horman’s Handwritten Cease-and-Desist

WRITTEN BY
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A Bluff That Raises More Questions Than It Answers

When political candidates are confronted with uncomfortable questions, they generally have two choices: answer them or ignore them. But wannabe candidate Mary Horman has taken a third route — drafting a handwritten cease-and-desist letter demanding critics stop talking about her.

The problem? A letter like this has no legal force. It isn’t signed by an attorney. It doesn’t cite any statutes or case law. It isn’t a court order. It’s simply a piece of paper — one that says far more about Horman’s state of mind than it does about her opponents.

Why a Handwritten Cease-and-Desist Is a Joke

Cease-and-desist letters are usually tools of intimidation, meant to scare someone into silence. But the fact that Horman sat down to write one herself — instead of engaging a lawyer — makes it laughable. No attorney would risk their reputation on a demand like this because:

1. Questions about a candidate’s residency are legitimate political speech, protected by the First Amendment.
2. Truth is a defense to defamation, and Horman knows people are pointing to facts she’d rather not discuss.
3. Trying to forbid someone from talking to “political entities” about her is an outright constitutional non-starter.

In short, the “letter” is nothing more than a political prop.

The Real Issue: Where Does She Live?

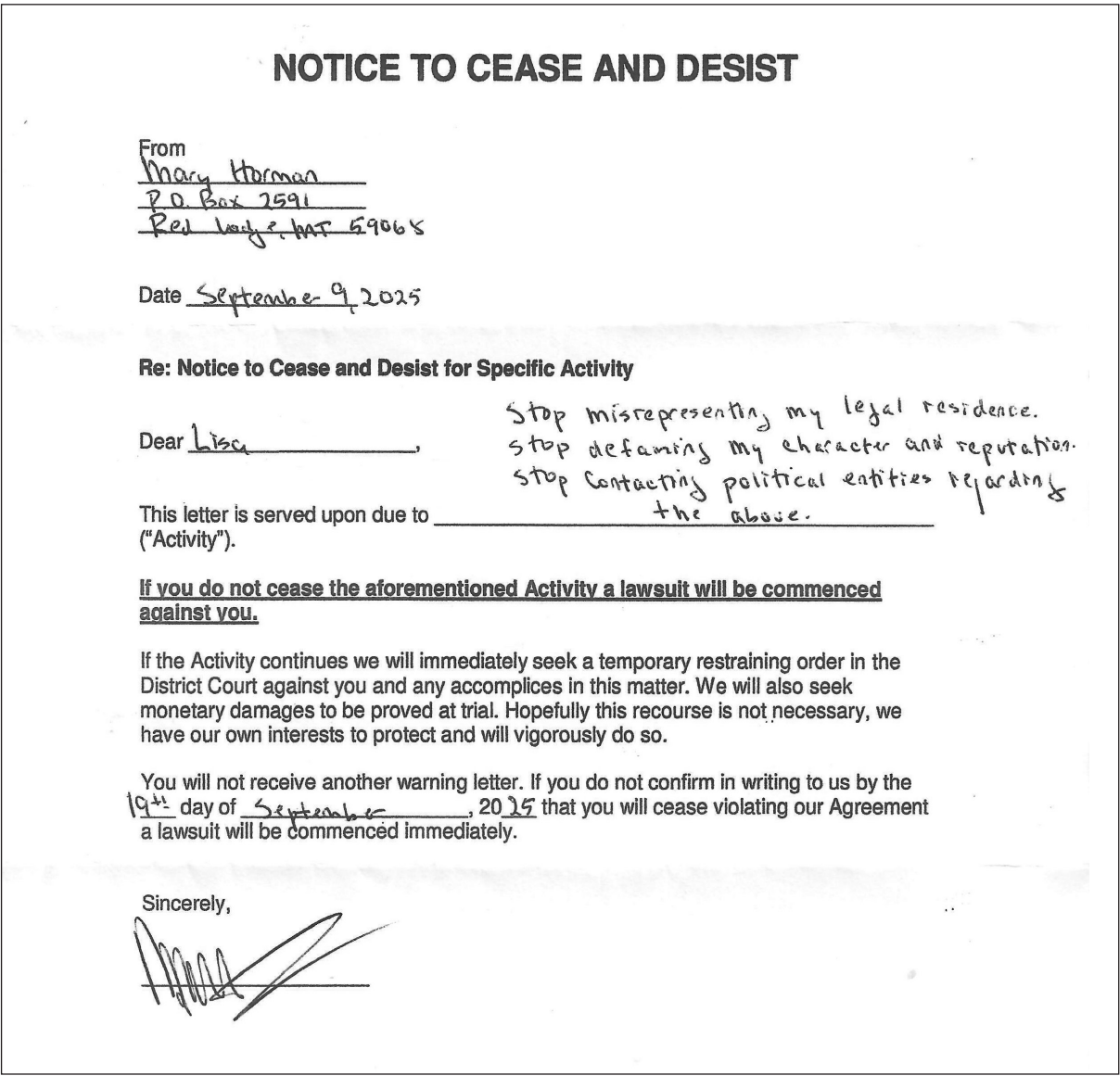
Why would Horman resort to scribbling a pseudo-legal threat? The most logical explanation is that she has something to hide. At issue is whether she registered to vote in Red Lodge while spending much of her time in Billings, where she has long worked as an ICU nurse at the Billings Clinic.

Why would a woman who has worked at Billings Clinic as an ICU nurse for nearly 30 years, and who owns a lovely home just a mile from the hospital, insist that her “legal residence” is a small vacation cottage she and her husband own in downtown Red Lodge? Does Mary Horman really commute to full-time work in downtown Billings from Red Lodge every day versus from her beautifully large home in Billings?

The questions are not only fair — they’re necessary. In fact, during her 2024 run for House District 55 and for Precinct 9 Committeewoman (a precinct with roughly 900 registered voters), Horman plastered signs across the county. Yet despite her countywide campaigning, she couldn’t even win her own precinct seat. She lost to a sweet older lady from the local Knitting Club — someone who didn’t campaign and even forgot to show up to vote for herself on Election Day. That loss alone says plenty about how voters closest to Horman actually view her.

Secret Recordings and Sneaky Tactics

The cease-and-desist isn’t Horman’s only questionable move. On September 10, 2025, she attended a Stillwater Republican Women’s meeting in Columbus as a guest of Carbon County Republican Women President and MTFRW District Director Cynthia Marble.



Rather than participate openly, Horman allegedly hid along the back wall with her husband, Dan, and secretly recorded portions of the private meeting on her phone without permission. Witnesses say she even used another member, Lisa Bennett, as a physical shield to conceal her actions.

Afterward, two members filed complaints with the Columbus Police Department, and the President of the Stillwater Republican Women filed a separate complaint with the Montana Federation of Republican Women (MTFRW). The MTFRW has confirmed it is awaiting the outcome of the police investigation before taking any further action.

According to Montana law (§ 45-8-213, MCA), it is unlawful to record private conversations without the consent of at least one party. Members of the Stillwater Republican Women had every reason to expect privacy in their meeting, and Horman’s sneaky recording could amount to a violation of state law.

A Pattern of Intimidation

This conduct came just one day after Horman sent a cease-and-desist letter to a local Republican woman, threatening civil action if the woma continued to challenge Horman’s legal residence. That challenge, of course, is protected First Amendment free speech. The timing makes Horman’s actions look less like leadership and more like intimidation and bullying.

Her behavior checks every box:

- Bullying: Threatening citizens with baseless legal action for exercising free speech.
- Deception: Secretly recording a private meeting behind another member’s back.
- Defensiveness: Refusing to address legitimate residency questions with transparency.

Escalating Threats: In addition to written threats, Horman allegedly left messages for a Stillwater County resident claiming she had “deep pockets” backing her and that she would use “every lawfare trick in the book” to bankrupt and crush the individual. As a result of the threats, clandestine recording, and harassment, a restraining order against Mary Horman is now being pursued to

protect those targeted by her actions.

Legal Implications: Unlawful Recording and Restraining Orders

Under Montana law, specifically Montana Code Annotated § 45-8-213, it is a criminal offense to record a private conversation without the consent of all parties involved. This statute applies to both in-person and electronic communications and includes provisions for hidden recordings. Violations can result in fines and imprisonment, with penalties increasing for subsequent offenses.

Furthermore, Montana Code Annotated § 40-15-102 outlines the eligibility for obtaining an order of protection, commonly referred to as a restraining order. Individuals who are in reasonable apprehension of bodily injury or have been victims of certain offenses, including assault, stalking, or intimidation, may file for such an order. The process involves filing a petition, and if granted, the order can impose various restrictions on the respondent, such as prohibiting contact and requiring them to stay a certain distance away from the petitioner.

Given the severity of Horman’s alleged actions, including secret recordings and threats, pursuing a restraining order is a legal avenue available to those affected by her behavior.

Calling the Bluff

At the end of the day, Horman’s handwritten cease-and-desist isn’t just a joke — it’s an admission. It suggests she knows the questions about her residency and credibility strike close to home.

If her Red Lodge residency claim were solid, she wouldn’t need to threaten critics in writing or sneak around filming private meetings. She could have confidently ignored the chatter, produced proof, and moved on. Instead, she escalated, revealing that the criticism may in fact have real merit.

And in politics, when someone reaches for a pen to silence their critics — and a phone to secretly record their peers — it usually means the critics are onto something. 🗳️