



**CEASE AND DESIST — DEMAND FOR RETRACTION,
CORRECTION, AND APOLOGY**

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND EMAIL

McKibbin Media Group, Inc. (Licensee / Station Owner)

Attn: WCSR News / Station Management

170 N West St

Hillsdale, MI 49242

(517) 437-4444

wcsrnewsroom@gmail.com

Date: February 08, 2026

Re: CEASE AND DESIST — Demand for Retraction, Correction, and Apology

Subject: False and defamatory broadcasts concerning Lance Lashaway and Hillsdale Conservatives

To Whom It May Concern:

I write on my own behalf and on behalf of Hillsdale Conservatives. This letter serves as a formal demand that WCSR (i) cease and desist from further publication of false and defamatory statements, (ii) issue a retraction, correction, and apology in the manner specified below, and (iii) preserve all evidence related to the broadcasts and WCSR's claimed "review" of court records.

This correspondence is sent after I personally visited WCSR, provided documentation, requested an opportunity to respond, and provided contact information. I did not receive a return call and WCSR continued coverage that created false and harmful implications about me and Hillsdale Conservatives.

1) Broadcasts at issue

WCSR aired multiple news segments beginning in mid-to-late January 2026 and

continuing through at least February 4, 2026 (collectively, the “Broadcasts”) concerning alleged mishandling of election-related materials and sworn testimony.

Two segments include these statements:

Clip 1 (late January 2026): WCSR reported that Clerk Abe Dane “responded” and called the allegations “factually false,” and the segment asserted that data on laptops and flash drives is deleted within seven days as a security measure “mandated by the Bureau of Elections,” and that “all official election records are stored long-term on paper or uploaded to secure systems as required by law.” The segment also reported that Commission Chair Mark Wiley called my concerns “a stretch,” and that the Commissioners took no action. The segment further injected unrelated character/credibility framing by stating that Hillsdale Conservatives were “kicked out” of a Hillsdale County Fair booth for posting a photo disparaging Dane and making similar claims, which was editorial commentary not a “review” of sworn testimony.

Clip 2 (February 4, 2026): WCSR stated: “A review of court records appears to refute claims...” and that “a WCSR News review of more than 400 pages of sworn testimony by Dane and the director of the Michigan Bureau of Elections, Jonathan Brader, fails to support those claims.” WCSR further stated that Hillsdale Conservatives claimed Dane admitted in court to “illegally destroying election records.”

2) The core falsity and defamation problem

WCSR has repeatedly reframed and republished my position and Hillsdale Conservatives’ position in a manner that is materially misleading and defamatory by implication, including by:

(a) Misstating what was claimed and what was demanded. Hillsdale Conservatives’ written submissions to county officials were framed as agenda placement, transparency, preservation, and referral demands based on sworn testimony and completed judicial actions—not a request for the Board to adjudicate, prosecute, or interfere with any judicial proceeding.

(b) Publishing a categorical “refutation” that contradicts the sworn record. WCSR’s statement that its review of sworn testimony “fails to support” Hillsdale Conservatives’ claims is false (or, at minimum, reckless) because the sworn testimony expressly supports the core factual point WCSR denied: Clerk Dane admitted deletion/removal of EPB election-folder data.

Specifically, in sworn testimony, Clerk Dane confirmed that the instruction to “remove the election folder from your EPB flash drive” refers to deleting that election folder (Aug. 12, 2025 transcript, p. 60). He then answered “Yes” when asked whether “remove” means “delete” (Aug. 12, 2025 transcript, p. 60).

Further, Clerk Dane admitted under oath that he personally deleted data from EPB flash cards “many times” since 2020 (Aug. 12, 2025 transcript, p. 63).

These sworn admissions are also corroborated by video recordings of the August 2025 hearing provided with this packet (see Exhibits G-I).

WCSR cannot broadcast a sweeping “fails to support / refutes” conclusion while ignoring explicit admissions in the record. If WCSR contends it was refuting a different statement, WCSR must quote the exact claim it is refuting and identify the exact page-and-line citations it relies upon.

(c) Conflating “device deletion” with “record-retention compliance.” Your broadcasts repeatedly imply that because certain device data may be deleted for security reasons, any concern about destruction of election-related material is therefore “factually false.” That is not a logical or legal conclusion. The legal questions include what must be retained under state/federal law, what categories the deleted material falls within, and whether preservation duties attached once issues were foreseeable.

3) The record WCSR ignored: Dane’s public statement and the effective-date issue

After Hillsdale Conservatives presented the County Commissioners with sworn testimony and requested recorded governance action, Clerk Dane issued a public statement dated January 28, 2026 asserting that his actions are “strictly governed by” Administrative Rule 168.48, which he claimed mandates deletion within seven days, and that required records are preserved via paper or secure systems.

A rule’s effective date matters. WCSR’s coverage presented a categorical “refutation” narrative while withholding the effective-date issue and while failing to distinguish between (i) deletion of EPB device files and (ii) legal duties governing retention and preservation of election records and related materials.

4) Demand for retraction, correction, apology, proof of “review,” and preservation of evidence

WCSR must do all of the following:

(1) Immediate cease and desist. Immediately cease and desist from republishing, rebroadcasting, or re-posting any statement that WCSR’s “review” of sworn testimony “fails to support” Hillsdale Conservatives’ claims, or that court records “appear to refute” those claims, unless WCSR quotes the exact claim being addressed and provides the precise record citations supporting its conclusion.

(2) On-air correction, retraction, and apology (script required). Within seven (7) days of receipt, WCSR must broadcast an on-air correction/retraction/apology substantially in the form below (the “Correction Script”). At a minimum, the correction must acknowledge the sworn admissions described in Section 2(b) above and retract any implication that Hillsdale Conservatives fabricated testimony or that the record contains no admissions of deletion/removal.

Correction Script (to be read on air):

“WCSR News is issuing a correction regarding prior reports about Lance Lashaway and the Hillsdale Conservatives and sworn testimony by Hillsdale County Clerk Abe

Dane. In sworn testimony, Dane confirmed that removing the election folder from an EPB flash drive means deleting it, and he answered 'Yes' when asked whether 'remove' means 'delete.' Dane also testified that he personally deleted EPB flash-card data 'many times' since 2020. Our prior language stating that the sworn record 'fails to support' the Hillsdale Conservatives' claims is retracted to the extent it implied there was no such testimony or that the Hillsdale Conservatives fabricated it. We acknowledge that Mr. Lashaway personally visited WCSR, provided documentation, and requested an opportunity to respond, and that WCSR did not contact him before continuing coverage. We apologize to Mr. Lashaway and the Hillsdale Conservatives for the false implication created by our reporting."

(3) Frequency and placement. The correction/retraction/apology must be aired three (3) times per day for seven (7) consecutive days, including at least one morning drive-time and one evening drive-time airing, and at substantially similar dayparts to the original segments.

(4) Written retraction and online correction where applicable. If any version of the story or segment was posted on WCSR's website or social media, WCSR must post a written correction/retraction and apology in a comparable location and prominence and keep it available for no less than thirty (30) days.

(5) Proof of the claimed "review" (identify exact citations or retract). Because WCSR represented that it reviewed "more than 400 pages" of sworn testimony and that the record "fails to support" Hillsdale Conservatives' claims, WCSR must provide a written response identifying: (i) the exact claim(s) by Hillsdale Conservatives that WCSR contends are "refuted" (quoted verbatim), and (ii) the specific page-and-line citations from the sworn testimony that WCSR relied upon to support its "fails to support / refute" conclusion. If WCSR cannot provide those citations, WCSR must retract the "review refutes / fails to support" assertions as unsupported.

(6) Preservation / litigation hold. WCSR is hereby placed on notice to preserve all documents and electronically stored information relating to the Broadcasts and WCSR's claimed "review," including but not limited to: recordings, scripts, drafts, show prep notes, internal communications, editorial notes, communications with any county officials or third parties regarding Lashaway/Hillsdale Conservatives, website/social posts and analytics, and copies of any materials WCSR claims it reviewed, including any audio/video of the court hearing.

(7) Deadline. Provide written confirmation of compliance within seven (7) days of receipt. If WCSR refuses, I will evaluate all available remedies. Nothing in this letter constitutes a waiver of any rights or remedies; all rights are expressly reserved.

Respectfully,

Lance Lashaway
Vice Chair, Hillsdale Conservatives

Exhibits (Enclosures):

Exhibit A: Agenda Placement Request (PDF)

Exhibit B: Hillsdale Conservatives Demand Letter (PDF)

Exhibit C: Hillsdale Conservatives Proposed Resolution (PDF)

Exhibit D: Clerk Abe Dane public statement dated Jan. 28, 2026 (image/PDF)

Exhibit E: WCSR segment transcripts / audio references (Clips 1-2; additional clips if applicable)

Exhibit F: Sworn testimony excerpts (Aug. 2025 transcript pages referenced above)

Exhibit G: Court hearing video excerpt (Aug. 11, 2025) — Brader, “pending promulgated rule” discussion (MP4)

Exhibit H: Court hearing video excerpt (Aug. 12, 2025) — Dane testimony re: ballots (MP4)

Exhibit I: Court hearing video excerpt — EPB content not reflected on report (MP4)