

Exhibit 14

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, :
Plaintiff :
v. : Civil Action Nos.:
: 1:90-cv-002229 and
: 1:17-cv-0006
ROBERT BRACE, ROBERT BRACE :
FARMS, INC. and ROBERT :
BRACE and SONS, INC., :
Defendants :

Deposition of LEWIS L. STECKLER, taken before
and by Sonya Hoffman, Notary Public in and for the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on Thursday, November
30, 2017, commencing at 12:59 p.m., at the offices
of Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C., 120
West Tenth Street, Erie, PA 16501.

Reported by Sonya Hoffman
Court Reporter

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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Also Present:

Robert Brace
Beverly Brace

1 A. Joe and I talked about it.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. It was a -- we talked about it.

4 Q. Is it not possible that you shared a copy of this
5 with Joe, even though it may not have been necessarily
6 signed? That's all I'm asking you. Do you recall, is my
7 question?

8 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

9 A. That's the reason I pointed out the dates, because
10 I was -- at that time I was upset I didn't get a chance to
11 go to the meeting and talk to the people on the Committee.

12 Q. You were upset. But I'm --

13 A. Because they didn't -- they didn't have my
14 information yet.

15 Q. But what I'm trying to say is when did you ever
16 express that to them?

17 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

18 Q. Because I'm looking -- based on your prior
19 testimony --

20 A. My specialist told me to let it go. The person in
21 Harrisburg advised me just to -- don't worry about it. Let
22 it go. There's nothing I could do about it.

23 Q. So are you testifying today that you did not give
24 them this form with the field numbers on it that they could
25 use --

1 A. Until 9/15.

2 Q. -- on September 14th? You're saying that they did
3 not have this form.

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. You're absolutely certain about that without a
6 question.

7 MS. BUCKLEY: Asked and answered.

8 A. To the best of my knowledge. How's that?

9 Q. To the best of your knowledge they never had this
10 form. So you're saying that all these other people
11 fabricated their annual meeting --

12 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

13 MR. KOGAN: I'm getting to the question here,
14 because what is the logical conclusion based on
15 what he's saying? He's saying that this Committee
16 vote was based on nothing. It was based on a
17 vacuum of information.

18 Q. Is that what you're insinuating, sir?

19 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

20 MR. KOGAN: Objection noted.

21 Q. Are you insinuating that they made the
22 determination without enough information to make the
23 determination?

24 A. They did whatever they had to do. I just --

25 Q. What does that mean?

1 A. I didn't get a chance to go. That's all.

2 Q. You didn't get a chance to go.

3 A. Because I was out of town.

4 Q. That may be true. But are you saying that they
5 also did not have this form --

6 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

7 Q. -- with this information?

8 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection. Asked and answered.

9 It's starting to get abusive.

10 MR. KOGAN: I'm going to ask the question as many
11 times as I wish, many different ways.

12 By Mr. Steckler stating just before that he
13 was almost certain that they did not have a copy
14 of this form on September 14, 1988 because he
15 wasn't there and he would be the only one to bring
16 that form, he's saying -- he's insinuating that
17 they made a determination without adequate
18 information.

19 Q. I just want to make sure that under oath you are
20 making that statement.

21 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

22 MR. KOGAN: Objection noted.

23 A. To the best of my knowledge, they had this map,
24 but they didn't have my designations on it at the 14th
25 meeting.

1 Q. They had a map with PC and CW on the field
2 numbers. Correct? Were there field numbers --

3 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

4 Q. -- on that map?

5 A. No. The map would have gone with the paper. This
6 would have been what I handed back to them.

7 Q. Which version of the map? There's two versions.
8 You obviously annotated one map after another.

9 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

10 Q. There wouldn't be two maps if that were not the
11 case.

12 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

13 MR. KOGAN: Objection noted.

14 Q. Are there two maps there, Mr. Steckler, one with
15 your annotations and one without?

16 A. (Witness reviews documents.) They've been
17 photocopied. If you notice, it's the same information,
18 except for this.

19 Q. Can you say that again, sir.

20 A. See like this?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. 8 percent of 250 feet.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. 8 percent of 250 feet.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. This map is a photocopy.

2 Q. Right. But is that your handwriting?

3 A. No.

4 Q. That's not your handwriting.

5 A. That is somebody else's handwriting. I didn't do
6 this.

7 Q. So they had this map at the time of their meeting.

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. Is that what you're testifying to?

10 A. No. I have no idea.

11 Q. Then how would they know what fields --

12 A. That's my point.

13 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

14 Q. I don't understand.

15 MS. BUCKLEY: Sorry. Objection. I'm going to
16 state my objection, which is this has been asked
17 and answered about 20 times. And you are calling
18 for speculation. And a lot of your questions lack
19 foundation.

20 I think we need to move along.

21 MR. KOGAN: No.

22 MS. BUCKLEY: If you have a problem with that,
23 we --

24 MR. KOGAN: I do have a problem with that.

25 MS. BUCKLEY: -- can call the judge.

1 MR. KOGAN: I do have a problem with the fact that
2 Mr. Steckler's testimony is insinuating that the
3 entire ASCS Committee, Executive Committee, in his
4 absence fabricated a result. That is the
5 insinuation.

6 A. No.

7 Q. And I just want to make sure for the record --

8 MS. BUCKLEY: That's a conclusion you're drawing.

9 Q. Well, what is the conclusion that I should draw,
10 Mr. Steckler? Please tell me.

11 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection. Can we go off the
12 record?

13 MR. KOGAN: No.

14 MS. BUCKLEY: Larry, you can not badger --
15 (Court reporter requests clarification.)

16 MS. BUCKLEY: We have to agree. Okay. All right.
17 We can continue to have this conversation on the
18 record if you wish, Mr. Kogan.

19 Q. My intent is not to badger you. My intent is to
20 try to find out what it is -- what is the meaning of what
21 you're saying. If they didn't -- if they made a decision in
22 your absence --

23 A. I was actually hoping we would go to the field and
24 take a look at it with the County Committee.

25 Q. Because it was a first-time CW?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. But they did not go to the field with you.

3 A. No.

4 Q. They let you go to the field.

5 A. Plus, I was talking to our specialist because that
6 was the first one we ever did.

7 Q. Okay. So my --

8 A. So while I was at Clarion on the 14th, they had
9 their meeting and decided whatever they decided. And the
10 paperwork was completed the next day and handed in.

11 Q. Now, did your determination support their
12 determination?

13 A. That's kind of what -- when I talked to my
14 specialist in Harrisburg, again, that's kind of what he
15 said.

16 Q. I'm asked you what your determination indicated.

17 A. Well, they knew which field it was because they
18 had the map. They had the map that was unmarked.

19 Q. Unmarked in what sense? Unmarked in -- what was
20 unmarked?

21 A. All these pictures are taken from the big area
22 photograph.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. Both offices had a great big area photograph.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. And all the farms that participate have lines
2 outlined where the -- how many acres, and they stick the map
3 in the photocopy machine and make copies. They would have
4 had a blank copy.

5 Q. But they would have had the -- would they have had
6 the field separated as you do in that picture?

7 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

8 A. They would have had the numbers. They would have
9 had the numbers, but no ATL or no Nos or no PCs or no CWs.

10 Q. So are you saying that they blindly granted this
11 determination not knowing what it pertained to?

12 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

13 Q. Is that you what you're saying?

14 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

15 A. No. I'm not saying that. I'm just saying they
16 didn't have the information. They didn't have this piece
17 and this piece, but they had blank ones with the field
18 numbers on them.

19 Q. So --

20 A. Joe and I looked at it. We talked about it.

21 Q. Before the meeting?

22 A. Yeah. We talked about it. They knew what areas
23 was going to be CW. It wasn't a surprise.

24 Q. Did you have extensive discussions with Joe?

25 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

1 A. Well, I saw him every day over coffee.

2 Q. Did you show him the form before you gave it to
3 them?

4 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

5 A. I can't remember that. No.

6 Q. But you don't -- but you do remember not giving
7 him a copy of the form.

8 A. Until I signed it and turned it back in the next
9 day, yes, on the 15th.

10 Q. So are you testifying that you never gave him a
11 preliminary copy --

12 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

13 A. Right.

14 Q. -- before your signature?

15 A. That's true.

16 Q. So that --

17 A. Most likely that's true.

18 Q. Most likely. Okay. But it's a long time ago.

19 A. That's right.

20 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

21 Q. And it is possible that you may not recall.

22 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

23 A. Like I say, he had copies of all the maps.

24 Q. He did. And because of extensive discussions with
25 you --

1 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

2 Q. -- he was briefed before the meeting. Was he not?

3 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

4 MR. KOGAN: Mr. Steckler just testified that he
5 met with Joe every day. He had coffee with him
6 every day.

7 A. We likely talked about --

8 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection to the characterization of
9 the witness' testimony.

10 A. We likely talked about it. We talked about
11 business all the time. Like I said, there was a good
12 working relationship between the two offices.

13 Q. But your fieldwork had been completed before the
14 14th, and you said that you were out of town on the 14th.

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

17 Q. Is that a yes?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So it was already completed. And did you see
20 Mr. Burawa before the 15th -- before the 14th, did you see
21 him? Do you remember? You must have seen him.

22 MS. BUCKLEY: Objection.

23 A. Yeah. Sometime.

24 Q. Okay. Having coffee, if not for other reasons.

25 A. Yes.