



Robert Fiume
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Sept. 9, 2013

Dear Mr. Vacula:

COLTS has received your e-mail dated August 29, 2013 with a proposed advertisement to be placed on COLTS' property to promote Atheists and your organization, the NEPA Freethought Society.

The advertising space on COLTS' property is a nonpublic forum. The content restrictions imposed by COLTS pursuant to its Advertising Policy (enacted on June 21, 2011) are reasonable and viewpoint neutral. COLTS does not accept advertisements that promote the belief that "there is no God" or advertisements that promote the belief that "there is a God." As stated in COLTS' Advertising Policy, it is COLTS' declared intent not to allow its property to become a public forum for the dissemination, debate, or discussion of public issues. The existence or non-existence of a supreme deity is a public issue. COLTS believes that your proposed advertisement may offend or alienate a segment of its ridership and thus negatively affect its revenue. COLTS does not wish to become embroiled in a debate over your group's viewpoints. Your proposed ad violates COLTS' advertising policy and COLTS has decided not to display it.

It is COLTS' goal to provide a safe and welcoming environment on its buses for the public at large. The acceptance of ads that promote debate over public issues such as abortion, gun control or the existence of God in a confined space like the inside of a bus detracts from this goal.

Sincerely yours,

Gretchen M. Wintermantel
Communications Director and
Right-to-Know Officer