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Health & Social Services

Alaska Legislative Ethics Committee

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I am writing today as an official response to your many queries, texts and phone calls received over an alleged ethics complaint, including texts, emails and calls on Dec 23, 2021. I was bewildered by the request by Jerry Anderson yesterday, to open an email & say “received” to an ethics decision in email, for I had requested the ethics investigation be delayed, until my active litigation on a similar issue was concluded. Today is an official holiday and I let Jerry know I had planned to take the day off. I have not yet opened the email because I want my due process & privacy rights respected. I formally request, that from this point forward, you contact me through official channels only, as it pertains to any ethics investigation or concerning the committee as a whole, so that I can work directly with my counsels on the matter.

I have several deep concerns as to how this process has been handled to date, from the original plaintiff to some involved who are also directly involved and attached to the committee itself, which creates at the least, an appearance of conflict of interest on the committee. It’s noted that the plaintiff and I have direct knowledge of each other and have at times clashed over policy differences, resulting in his formal public apology to me. The plaintiff is a former state employee that has made inappropriate explicit references toward me in state email. Known action was taken against him, including the requirement he write an official letter of apology to me. This complaint appears to be retaliation against me for a previous complaint his sordid actions towards me when he was employed by the State of Alaska for ADFG.

It’s on the record that Mr. Sinnott, who is not a constituent, filed the complaint just days after the Feb. 18th, 2021 letter from Gov. Dunleavy, who accused me publicly of undermining the states COVID restrictions and response. I will quote the Governors exact words...

"JUNEAU — Gov. Mike Dunleavy delivered a blistering letter to the head of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday, accusing Eagle River Republican Sen. Lora Reinbold of "violating ethics rules and her oath of office" by repeatedly spreading misinformation about Alaska’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic."

I believe that the Ethics Committee is being politically weaponized, in direct response to my questioning in public, and on the record as a public official, things concerning the health and wellbeing of my constituents. I also believe that the committee is well aware that I am in the middle of an unrelated lawsuit on a similar topic in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska. I am concerned that this committee has suddenly chosen this time to move forward, with a direct intent to infringe on my due process rights, in this pending case, raising questions about the legality of the current push from this committee, not only in potential violation of the Alaska Constitution, but the U.S. Constitution as well. I’m very concerned that these sudden efforts are intended to influence the pending lawsuit and make public your conclusions in advance of any adjudication by the court proceedings. This would be in violation of Alaska law under Alaska Stat. 11.56.510 (Interference with official proceedings)

I also found it interesting that the committee discussed the odd topic of an official title being a state asset or not, as it pertains to elected official titles in the Ethics Committee on Dec 17, 2021. Is “Representative” or “Senator” a borrowed title from the government, or an earned title belonging to the private person after being sworn in after an

election? This has been ruled on at APOC. The information discussed in the committee could potentially impact and interfere with the process currently underway in the courts.

I also believe that other potential conflicts may exist as it pertains to this committee and what appears to be a political witch hunt. As we all know, Senator Begich once made a false and totally unsubstantiated accusation against me regards to an alleged, “brandishing of a weapon” on Capitol grounds prior to an important vote. Further, Senator David Wilson once threatened to “expel” me from the Senate using rule 49 at the HSS committee hearing. Both members have voted to remove me from my Senate Committee Judiciary Chair without legitimate cause, potentially because I asking questions that concern every Alaskan citizen as it pertain to COVID management issues. Rather than answering those questions, I was simply threatened and intimidated by fellow Senate members for asking those questions. Both of these men sit on the Senate Ethics Committee.

False allegations fall under Alaska law AS 11.56.800 (False Allegation or Report) and AS 11.56.805 (False Accusation) but still resulted in my separation of duties that day, impeding my duties, also in violation of legislative rules which also exist to prevent this type of inquisition.

I would state that if the committee decides to move forward with what has been said under the powers of their position, I will except and meet the required procedures of the process and defend myself against them and respect that process in place, despite many well-founded concerns about the real purpose and integrity of this investigation. Please take note there are NO official rules in the ethics laws regarding blocking someone on social media.

I am going to seek counsel in this matter and present to them Prima Facie evidence of the materials I have collected during the onslaught of attacks I have endured over the past year. It’s hard for me to believe that the many attacks I have endured from my contemporaries, many of them on the same side of the aisle as me, simply as a result of keeping my oath to me constituents by asking the most relevant questions in the best interest of public health, safety, and personal liberty.

In closing, this letter is not a threat of any form. It is intended to put on the official record, all of the factors involved in this matter, including but not limited to individuals and agendas that may not be designed to arrive at a truthful and appropriate outcome.

I respect the rules and position of this committee and hold the same level of respect for my right to due process and a defense of all my rights. As these matters proceed, I intend to defend myself in an honest and transparent fashion, including under the light of day in the public forum, as all citizens of Alaska have a stake in what’s happening here.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration. I look forward to session and legislating on behalf of Alaskans and my district.

Respectfully,

Senator Lora Reinbold