



Senate

State of Minnesota

January 27, 2011

Senator Michelle Fischbach, Chair
Senate Rules Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct
226 State Capitol Building
75 Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN. 55155

Dear Madam Chair,

We are submitting a formal request for the Senate Rules Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct to begin an investigation into allegations concerning the conduct of Senator Scott Newman under the provisions outlined in Senate Permanent Rule 55.3.

It is our belief that Senator Newman's conduct outlined in recent published reports regarding emails sent to individuals seeking to meet with him resulted in behavior that violated Senate Permanent Rule 56.3 by betraying the public trust and has brought the Senate into dishonor and disrepute.

Specifically, on January 20, 2011 Senator Newman disseminated from his Senate office an email to the Minnesota Nurses Association detailing that he would not meet with members of their organization due to the fact campaign contributions were made to Senator Newman's opponent during the 2010 election cycle. In fact, the email from Senator Newman stated that he would not see any organizations (individuals) that donated or supported his election opponent.

This email was disseminated on Senate equipment by Senator Newman's Legislative Assistant Kim Kelley and appears to be at the direction of the Senator. The Subcommittee is obligated to investigate the details of this matter and interview both Senator Newman and his Legislative Assistant concerning who ordered the implementation of this policy. When a Senator equates access based upon who may have made a legal contribution in an election contest or who supported a candidate due to a issue preference, party affiliation or membership in an association, this member conducts themselves improperly and betrays the public trust, as outlined in Senate Permanent Rule 56.3.

The people of Minnesota expect the members of the Minnesota Senate to adhere to the highest ethical standards, impart fairness, and be open minded to the concerns of all constituencies. Should the citizens of our state see their elected officials segregating



their interests due their political affiliation, the integrity of both individual members and the reputation of the Senate is damaged.

We therefore request as Chairperson, that you convene the Rules Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct in an expedient manner and determine the proper course of action to deal with this violation of Senate Rules.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Pappas
Senator, District 65



D. Scott Dibble
Senator, District 60



Kenneth S. Kelash
Senator, District 63