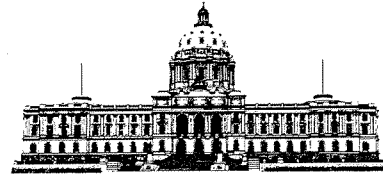


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Senate

State of Minnesota

May 7, 2008

Senator Lawrence Pogemiller
Senate Majority Leader
235 Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Pogemiller:

The concluding weeks of the legislative session are historically – and expectedly – a time of high emotions, heated rhetoric and long, tiring days for legislators and staff. Most of us acknowledge that the outcome, whether or not it is favorable to ourselves, represents the work of many people across the political spectrum.

However, recent actions by one of your chairman and caucus leaders tops off an ongoing attack on members of the legislative minority, the integrity of the Minnesota Senate, and the well-established traditions of civility of which we are so rightly proud in Minnesota.


Unfortunately, Senator Steve Murphy yesterday, in on-camera comments to a reporter, challenged a member of the Governor's staff to "meet him on the Capitol steps." This behavior is beneath the respected standards of the Minnesota Senate. It prompts this letter and deserves your immediate attention.

Senate Rule 56 states that: "*members should adhere to the highest standard of ethical conduct . . . [and] improper conduct includes conduct that, among other things, violates accepted norms of Senate behavior that betrays the public trust or that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor or disrepute.*" In that light, I feel it is proper that as Minority Leader, I call on you to take action.

While I do not believe that Senator Murphy's actions have yet risen to a level that merits an ethics complaint, I believe you have a duty as Majority Leader to address this matter. My recommendation is that Senator Murphy publicly apologize to the staff person in question, the Senate and the people of Minnesota.

All of us as elected representatives have a duty to do all that we can do to bring honor to the offices we hold and the people we represent. The sooner you take action on this matter the sooner Minnesotans will know that "over the line" rhetoric is not acceptable in the Minnesota Senate.

Sincerely,


Senator David Senjem
Senate Minority Leader



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