

Steven Sviggum
Speaker of the House

District 28B
Dodge, Goodhue, Olmsted,
Steele and Waseca Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

February 28, 2000

Rep. Elaine Harder
487 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Elaine Harder:

Pursuant to Permanent Rules of the House, 6.10, I am forwarding to you, an ethics complaint regarding Representative Arlon Lindner, and accompanying materials which I received today. As you know, House Rules require that I forward any complaints to the Committee within seven days for your consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sviggum", is written over the printed name and title.

Representative Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House

cc: Members of the Ethics Committee (w/out enclosures)

- Representative Bob Milbert, Vice-chair
- Representative Greg Davids
- Representative Mary Murphy
- Representative Jim Rhodes, alternate
- Representative Jean Wagenius, alternate





Minnesota House of Representatives

February 28, 2000

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

Pursuant to House Rule 6.10 we request that the House Committee on Ethics convene for the purpose of investigating the conduct of Representative Arlon Lindner. The subject of this ethics filing is contained in the enclosed complaint.

It is our request that a preliminary hearing be held on this complaint immediately, pursuant to the procedures of the Committee on Ethics.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ann H. Rest", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Ann H. Rest

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Matt Entenza", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Matt Entenza

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wes Skoglund", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Wes Skoglund

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert I. Leighton", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Robert Leighton

Enclosure

cc: Representative Arlon Lindner





Minnesota House of Representatives

FORMAL NOTICE OF COMPLAINT AGAINST REPRESENTATIVE ARLON LINDNER FOR VIOLATION OF THE RULES OF THE MINNESOTA HOUSE

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

The undersigned, members of the Minnesota House of Representatives, in furtherance of their responsibilities to uphold the Constitution and Rules of the House, hereby notify the Speaker of the House of their filing of a complaint against Representative Arlon Lindner.

Representative Lindner's violation of Rule 6.10 of the House, promulgated pursuant to the Minnesota State Constitution, Article IV, Section 7, and the formal Rules of the House, adopted on January 11, 1999, requires the immediate convening of the House Ethics Committee for a preliminary hearing as provided by House Rule 6.10.

The complaint is hereby enclosed and contains, with specificity, the allegations sworn by the undersigned Representatives.

We swear the statements in the complaint are true, so help us God.

Dated this 28th Day of February, 2000.

Ann H. Rest
Representative Ann H. Rest

Matt Entenza
Representative Matt Entenza

Wes Skoglund
Representative Wes Skoglund

Robert J. Leighton
Representative Robert Leighton





Minnesota House of Representatives

ETHICS COMPLAINT AGAINST REPRESENTATIVE ARLON LINDNER FOR VIOLATION OF MINNESOTA HOUSE RULE 6.10

COMPLAINT

The Minnesota State Constitution, Article IV, Section 7, provides that each house may determine the rules of its proceeding and for the punishment of members. The House adopted on January 11, 1999, rule 6.10 which provides in relevant part:

A complaint may be brought about conduct by a member that violates a rule or administrative policy of the House, that violates accepted norms of House behavior, that betrays the public trust, or that tends to bring the House into dishonor or disrepute.

During the debate on proposed changes to House Rule 1.01 on February 23, 2000, Representative Arlon Lindner violated Rule 6.10.

Representative Lindner speaking to Representative Michael Paymar, a Jewish member of this House, said, "don't impose your irreligious left views on me."

This statement violates accepted norms of House behavior and tends to bring the House into dishonor or disrepute. We are compelled to bring the following two counts to the attention of the House Committee on Ethics:

Count 1

Pursuant to House Rule 9.01 the Rules Committee has established a code of conduct for members, officers and employees of the House. The statement by Representative Lindner violates Rule 6.10. The rule states in part:

**A complaint may be brought about conduct by a member that . . .
violates accepted norms of House behavior.**

Representative Lindner's derogatory remarks about the Jewish faith clearly violates accepted norms of conduct. This is further verified by the provisions of the House Code of Conduct



(Attachment 1) that require a State Representative to treat everyone with respect, fairness and courtesy; and be respectful of the House of Representatives as a fundamental institution of civil government.

Count 2

Pursuant to House Rule 9.01 the Rules Committee has established a code of conduct for members, officers and employees of the House. The statement by Representative Lindner violates Rule 6.10. The rule states in part:

A complaint may be brought about conduct by a member that . . . tends to bring the House into dishonor or disrepute.

The statement by Representative Lindner defamed people of the Jewish faith by calling them irreligious and impugning the sincerity of their religious beliefs. As evidence of this, members filed a formal protest and dissent as a result of the remarks of Representative Lindner. (Attachment 2)

Conclusion and Request for Relief

We, the undersigned, believe that the following two counts require immediate consideration by the House Committee on Ethics. We respectfully request that the Committee find that probable cause exists for the violation of these rules and that the Committee, in open hearing, recommend an appropriate sanction for the violation of our rules.


Submitted with this complaint (as required by Rule 6.10) is a copy of the Transcript from the House Floor Session from February 23, 2000, and a copy of the recording log from that day's session.

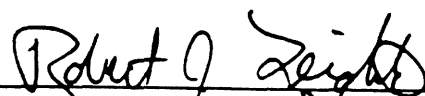
We swear that the statements in this complaint subscribed to us are true, so help us God.

Dated this 28th Day of February, 2000.


Representative Ann H. Rest


Representative Matt Entenza


Representative Wes Skoglund


Representative Robert Leighton