

Elaine Harder
State Representative District 22B

Assistant Majority Leader
Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin,
Redwood and Watonwan Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

ETHICS: CHAIR

COMMITTEES: AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE, TAXES AND PROPERTY TAX DIVISION

TO: Speaker Steve Sviggum
CC: Representative Tim Pawlenty, Rules & Legislative Administration Committee

FROM: House Ethics Committee
Representative Elaine Harder, Chair
Representative Bob Milbert, Vice Chair
Representative Greg Davids
Representative Mary Murphy
Representative Jim Rhodes
Representative Jean Wagenius

DATE: March 24, 2000

RE: Request to Recommend Revisions to House Rules

As Ethics Committee members who have contemplated speech in debate issues during consideration of a recent ethics complaint, we pass along the following request to you today.

We believe that the current House Rules relating to speech in debate are contradictory in some places and we recommend revision. We are requesting authority from you to study the issue and make recommendations to the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee. The Rules and Procedures of the House Ethics Committee limits our committee's jurisdiction to reviewing and disposing of ethics complaints against members; adopting written procedures for handling complaints; considering complaints about open meeting requirements as referred by the Speaker; and considering matters referred to it by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration or the House. Specific jurisdiction to study and prepare recommendations in this instance would provide clarification to allow us to proceed.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter. Thank you.

