



COMMON CAUSE MINNESOTA

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Common Cause MN is a nonpartisan grassroots organization working to create an open, honest, and accountable government. More information about our work at www.commoncause.org. Thank you Senator Boldon for bringing SF2052 and the author's amendment forward.

Minnesota is home to over 18,000 multipartisan members across the state and despite belonging to various MN party affiliations, or not being affiliated, the one thing they've come together to do is support our work ensuring our Republic's democracy is safeguarded, our elections continue to reflect the will of Minnesotans and everyone's vote counts. Maximizing transparency and accountability of expenditures and lobbyists' efforts to influence decision makers is part of what is needed to safeguard the voice of constituents over that of special interests, major donors, political parties and politicians.

To be truly of, by, and for the people, government must reflect everyone it serves. This requires elected officials place the interests of their constituents ahead of their own, that of their party, major donors and special interests. Elected officials are voted in by constituents entrusting them with their political power, to be their advocates and lobbyists within spaces of power. This body is making decisions that directly impact constituents' day-to-day lives – it should not do the bidding of large corporations or their highly paid lobbyists.

That's why we work for meaningful lobbying laws that require strong disclosure and registration rules for lobbyists at both the state and federal level. SF2051 gets us closer to this goal.

Common Cause has been instrumental in pushing key lobbying reforms through Congress, including the Lobbying Disclosure Act and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act. That law provided increased transparency for the American public and extended the "cooling off" period for former public officials before they can lobby their former colleagues. SF2051 addresses one aspect of the problem; increasing transparency in what lobbyists must report by expanding it to include political subdivisions and responsible funding for the campaign finance board to conduct audits and investigations under 10A.022 VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.

We support SF2051 because it increases transparency by modifying the definition of lobbyist to include the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action, or the official action of a political subdivision, by communicating or urging others to communicate with public or local officials and not just limited to metropolitan governmental unit.

Thank you for your dedication to all Minnesotans as you work in committee.

Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera

Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera,
Executive Director

democracy is **OUR** common cause