

Dear Chair Carlson & Members of the Committee,

I would like to voice my strong support for Sen. Marty's bill SF567 to mandate a 7-year cooling-off period for legislators becoming lobbyists. Too many people in MN already feel like politicians don't care about them - they're only out for themselves. This mistrust erodes our democracy, and leaves our country vulnerable to dangerous demagogues. I believe most of our legislators are good people who care about the people they represent. However, some may see their public service only as a stepping stone on the way to enriching themselves through powerful lobbies, and this bill is an easy way to remove that incentive from our political system. We need this reform now - our democracy is fragile, and we need to build in reforms that reinforce fairness, transparency, and accountability now more than ever.

I urge you to support SF567. Thank you for your time.

Elisabeth Moen, Minneapolis