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House of Representatives State of Idaho

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

TO: Representative Thomas Loertscher Representative Wendy Jaquet
Representative Dell Raybould Representative Bill Killen
Representative Bert Stevenson Representative George Saylor
Representative Rich Wills

FROM: Lawrence Denney, Speaker of the House
DATE: June 24, 2010
RE: Formation of a House Ethics Committee

A formal written complaint has been received in my office concerning the conduct of a member of the House pursuant to House Rule 76, which requires me, as Speaker, to appoint an Ethics Committee. The complaint is enclosed.

After considering recommendations from the House Minority Leader, I am appointing the above listed Representatives to serve on this committee and am designating Representative Loertscher to serve as Chair and Representative Jaquet to serve as Vice Chair.

In addition, I'm assigning Mr. Brian Kane from the Attorney General's Office to serve as counsel to the committee based on the recommendation of Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, and have asked Jeff Youtz, Director of Legislative Services, to coordinate other staffing as needed.

The committee will convene in August with Chairman Loertscher choosing the exact date. The first committee meeting will include a briefing on ethics committee procedures and a preliminary investigation of the complaint, which will include a review of the complaint and a review of the response to that complaint.

Thank you for your willingness to serve on this committee.

ld/scf

Enclosure

cc: House Members

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House of Representatives
State of Idaho
MINORITY LEADER

The Honorable Lawrence Denney
Speaker, Idaho House of Representatives
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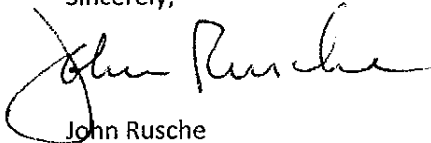
Mr. Speaker,

Based on recent news accounts, our caucus believes that it is important to investigate potential misconduct in performance of legislative duties by Representative Phil Hart. This formal complaint and request for investigation is as allowed by Rule 76 of the Idaho House of Representatives.

Based on recently disclosed information, it appears that Representative Hart has attempted to use his position as a Member of the Idaho House to obtain special treatment from the Idaho Tax Commission. In addition, as Representative Hart serves on the tax policy committee while at the same time appearing to attempt to set aside tax law and obtain personal financial benefit, there is at the least a perception of a conflict of interest which has not been acknowledged as required by House Rule 38.

I believe it is in all of our best interests--the House, fellow legislators and the citizens of the State--to resolve this issue expeditiously.

Sincerely,



John Rusche

Minority Leader
Idaho House of Representatives

PRESS RELEASE

House Speaker Selects Ethics Committee Members

Statehouse
Boise, Idaho

Phone: 332-1111

For immediate release: June 25, 2010

Speaker Lawrence Denney today announced the formation and membership of a House Ethics Committee to investigate a complaint filed against Representative Phil Hart of Coeur d'Alene. The Speaker has selected Representative Thomas Loertscher to chair the seven-member committee and Representative Wendy Jaquet as vice-chair. Other members of the committee include Representatives Dell Raybould, Bert Stevenson, Rich Wills, Bill Killen and George Saylor.

The Speaker indicated no immediate action was necessary from him concerning Rep. Hart's committee assignments, since the committees on which Rep. Hart serves are not scheduled to meet during the interim.

The Speaker stated, "I have full confidence in the Idaho House process and in the capable and experienced members I have selected for this committee. It is important for both the House and for Rep. Hart to have this matter resolved quickly and in a fair, even-handed manner."

The House Ethics Committee will be looking at an August timetable, but the Speaker will leave the exact dates up to Chairman Loertscher to determine with his committee members.