

March 21, 2011

I am not a politician.

I am a husband, a father, a grandfather, a businessman, a proud resident of Payette County. I make my living selling bulls and horses, something that most Idahoans know requires a sterling reputation for honesty and integrity.

It is with those values that I approach my work as a citizen legislator. My friends and neighbors sent me to the Capitol to represent them and their interests, and to use my best judgement on votes important to them and their fellow citizens around the state.

It is with that in mind that I welcome the committee's unanimous decision to clear me of the charges leveled last week. I did nothing wrong and have a clear conscience.

However, I join the many Idahoans who are troubled by what has happened over the last several days. That is why I offer a hand of friendship to my colleagues, even those who made the baseless charges against me, and ask that we continually work to improve our standards and guidelines.

We have an obligation to the public not only to maintain the highest ethical standards, but also to show them that we have clear procedures and rules for how we go about conducting the public's business.

Monty J. Pearce
IDAHO SENATOR