



May 26, 2016

The Honorable Paul Thissen
House Minority Leader
267 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

via hand and electronic delivery

Representative Thissen,

Throughout this session, we have witnessed a disturbing pattern of verbal abuse of Republican Staff by you on the floor of the House of Representatives. Your verbal taunts occurred both on and off the record, but all were plainly visible to most in the House chamber. This is absolutely unacceptable behavior by any member – let alone a leader – of either caucus.

On the last night of session, you again crossed the line by confronting and screaming profanity at Republican staff. We understand the final hours of legislative sessions are unpredictable and sometimes frustrating, but there is no excuse for such hostile and intimidating behavior toward any staff.

Our staff – non-partisan, Democrat, and Republican alike – are the backbone of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Despite this near-universal recognition, you routinely made derogatory remarks about our staff by name on the House floor and in Rules Committee. These comments were made knowing that staff cannot respond in kind, and that staff has no microphone with which to defend themselves.

We urge you to apologize to all House staff, especially those you abused on the last night of session. Further, we hope that you will examine and correct this inappropriate behavior should you continue as a leader in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Rep. Dan Fabian, 01A

Rep. Tara Mack, 57A

Rep. Tony Albright, 55B

Majority Leader Joyce Peppin, 34A

Rep. Mary Franson, 08B

Rep. Marion O'Neill, 29B

Rep. Jim Nash, 47A

Cc: The Honorable Speaker Kurt Daudt

