



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee Members,

June 1, 2021

On April 12th, 2021, I was witness to inappropriate behavior impacting a person's life and hindering them to do their job effectively. This written testimony assumes the committee members have read the "Confidential Report, Investigation of Case #56" dated May 17, 2021, prepared by Sarah J. Ryan, and are familiar with the text messages from Representative Brad Witt to Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson. Those messages severely compromised Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson's feeling of safety in the workplace and her ability to perform at her normal level of excellence.

April 12th was a Monday. Tuesday, April 13th was "first chamber deadline." Everyone in the building knows how busy and chaotic those two days are. Members need to be firing on all cylinders, functioning at the top of their game. Even more, Chairs and Vice-Chairs have an incredible workload those two days. Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson, the Vice-Chair on Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, was essentially hobbled in her ability to perform her very specific job duties as Vice-Chair. Other members of that committee stepped in to ensure that committee business could move forward as normal.

I sit on House Business and Labor with Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson and I very much value her discernment and thoughtfulness on this committee. That week, in addition to a full committee schedule, we also had over 24 hours of Floor Session scheduled. Simply put, that week was much busier than average and required much perseverance and stamina of all members.

Unfortunately, Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson was clearly unable to engage in the work like normal. I was near her almost immediately following receipt of the text messages and can testify to her visibly shaken and anxious behavior. And I was in committee with her, observing her distant demeanor both during committee and preparation leading up to committee. I also observed her over the course of the immediate busier-than-normal week and months following the inappropriate behavior. I can only explain it as compromised, anxiety-filled, and distracted.

Based solely on the reaction of Representative Breese-Iverson to the text messages she received, and the emotional consequences she suffered as a result, it is my belief and testimony that the actions of Representative Witt clearly crossed a line that House Rules are meant to protect, regardless of intentions.

Sincerely,

Representative Shelly Boshart Davis
Oregon House District 15