

## **NONSPECIFIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CONFLICT OF INTEREST RULES**

Hi Ethics Commission,

I write in concern of the draft of the conflicts of interest rules. It excludes campaign donations, which would be a loophole for conflicts of interest. Public officials should have to disclose when they have a campaign donation that creates a conflict of interest in their decisions. That seems to be a matter of ethics and should be under the Ethics Commission's purview. Please reconsider this part of the draft.

Thank you,

Whitney Oxendahl  
823 3rd St N, Fargo

I will make this short.

I voted for the Ethics Commission.

The proposed new Draft rules on conflict of interest are not what I voted for.

Please change course and do not pass.

Cheryl Schaeffle  
3023 Dakota Park Circle S  
Fargo ND

Good day, ND Ethics Commission.

I am one of the voters that whole-heartedly voted for the ND Ethics Commission to be established. You can understand why, then, I am DEEPLY disappointed with your draft rules for conflict of interest. Are you kidding me?!?! I'm sorry for being so informal but I am upset. When I voted for the Ethics commission, I envisioned a STRONG body that would help put faith back into government. Instead, these rules DO NOT speak out strongly against ethics violations and those opportunities for wealthy interests to put their needs above the average North Dakotan. As a matter of fact, they water down the entire need for the commission and make your presence nothing but a milquetoast bureaucracy and, honestly, ND has enough of those.

GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD. PLEASE. You are letting down a lot of voters with the current mess of words.

Here is a GREAT article to let you know exactly what is wrong with the rules:

[https://bismarcktribune.com/opinion/columnists/speaking-out-proposed-conflict-of-interest-rules-seriously-flawed/article\\_26b53c55-58c9-5918-aaa8-c20ca0b4dc9b.html?link\\_id=1&can\\_id=9e02f01e54e940a215a08948a343ca0e&source=email-new-north-dakota-legislative-map&email\\_referrer=email\\_1375673&email\\_subject=help-us-keep-the-ethics-commission-on-track](https://bismarcktribune.com/opinion/columnists/speaking-out-proposed-conflict-of-interest-rules-seriously-flawed/article_26b53c55-58c9-5918-aaa8-c20ca0b4dc9b.html?link_id=1&can_id=9e02f01e54e940a215a08948a343ca0e&source=email-new-north-dakota-legislative-map&email_referrer=email_1375673&email_subject=help-us-keep-the-ethics-commission-on-track)

Respectfully,

Cheryl Kary,  
District 32

“unrealistic to expect candidates running for office to turn down campaign donations when they’re trying to win elections”? From an agency they would regulate? Give me a break! What a scumbag state of affairs that is!

James B Buhr MD Valley City ND 701-840-1570

The [proposed rules](#) advanced by the five-member commission last month would require public officials to disclose any conflicts, including family relationships or financial interests, before acting or voting on a matter. An official with a declared conflict of interest wouldn't be disqualified from acting on the issue unless "the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in the public official's situation would be materially affected."

These suggestions should absolutely be enacted. After all, aren't we striving for transparency and equal opportunity for those representing US - not giving an edge to some exercising subterfuge??!! How can there be ANY reason to be against these proposals?

Jill Garaas

Ms Butcher and Ms Chaffee are correct.

<https://www.thedickinsonpress.com/news/government-and-politics/7296031-North-Dakota-ethics-board-gets-pushback-on-proposed-conflict-of-interest-rules>

Al Webster, Dickinson

Dear Sirs and Ladies:

As a retired physician having practiced in North Dakota for over 35 years I had to abide by "Sunshine rules" that as a recipient of medicare payments I was required to disclose virtually any payment over that of a ballpoint pen. I was in charge of directing how the care of my patients and if I could be influenced by a gift to prescribe a drug by a monetary inducement. We are talking a very small and distant link from the inducement and action. I would think that to ask our state elected representatives to recuse themselves from any conflict of interest vote is a small ask given the optics and current general concern for political honesty nation wide. It would display how our state is all about honesty and what they would want to adopt. To not do so states the obvious.

Sincerely,  
Dr Craig R Kouba

Dear Ethics Commission,  
Get serious! You cannot leave out campaign contributions on the list of conflicts of interest. Receiving contributions from those you regulate is the most blatant form of conflict of interest. Get serious!  
Laura Anhalt  
1320 N 2nd St  
Bismarck ND 58501

I am writing to opposed the Draft rules as proposed by the ethics commission I don't think they go far enough in protecting the average North Dakota to this from corporate and big donor political influence accepting campaign donations from conflict of interest rules is crazy that only keeps politicians in the pockets of big money interests and not with the people go back to the drawing board we need the ethics commission to be strong in their stance  
Scooter Junior [chrisssketchesforfun@gmail.com](mailto:chrisssketchesforfun@gmail.com)

The proposed rules recently released by the Ethics Commission are very problematic. I am writing to suggest that you re-write these rules and make them Much Stronger! Like suppppper stronger! I voted for the Ethics commission and I didn't do that so we could create just another bureaucratic office that will help shield law makers from being ethical and doing the right thing!  
Sincerely,  
Christian Dustin Kelly of Bismarck North Dakota!  
Christian Kelly [MrKelly1229@outlook.com](mailto:MrKelly1229@outlook.com)

Did you know that campaign finance reform is one of the biggest concerns of all American voters?? This is because we are TIRED of politicians putting money and their interests before the PEOPLE. the point of conflict of interest rules is actual TRANSPARENCY and ACCOUNTABILITY and not technical compliance with campaign reporting requirements. RE-WRITE the rules and make them stronger

Mikayla Demontiney [mikylademontiney3@gmail.com](mailto:mikylademontiney3@gmail.com)

The purposed rules recently by the Ethics Commission are very problematic. I am writing to suggest that you re write these rules and make them MUCH STRONGER. I voted for the Ethics Commission and I didn't do that so we could create just another bureaucratic office that will help shield law makers from being ethical and doing the right thing.

MitMit Dawn [mwhitefeather18@gmail.com](mailto:mwhitefeather18@gmail.com)

Kylie Silk <[silkkylie1@gmail.com](mailto:silkkylie1@gmail.com)> We need serious government reform. I am tired of feeling like government officials only work for themselves. This is why I voted for the Ethics Commission. Now I expect you to DO YOUR JOB and hold your elected officials accountable/ And you are NOT doing that with the current rules for comment. These poorly drafted rules do NOT achieve the purpose of the constitutionally mandated purpose to strengthen the confidence of people in ND in their government and support open, ethical, and accountable government!

Kylie Silk [silkkylie1@gmail.com](mailto:silkkylie1@gmail.com)

I am writing to OPPOSE the draft rules as proposed by the Ethics Commission. I don't think they go far enough in protecting the average North Dakota citizen from corporate and big donor political influence. Exempting campaign donations from conflict of interest rules us crazy. That only jeeps politicians in the pockets of big money interest and NOT with the people. Go back to the drawing board! We need the Ethics Commission to be STRONG in there stances.

Weston B [weston605@gmail.com](mailto:weston605@gmail.com)

The proposed rules of the Ethics Commission need to be RE-WRITTEN! I voted for the Ethics Commission because I believe we need truth and transparency in government. You are letting politicians do business as usual with these weak and unconstitutional rules! It's bad enough that - as a Native American - we are constantly left out of decision making. The Ethics Commission gave us hope. Now your rules are crushing that hope by letting politicians slide once again. You should be ashamed of these rules.

Trista Jetty [Jetty\\_2013@hotmail.com](mailto:Jetty_2013@hotmail.com)

When I was a kid growing up in ND, I was always told government was for people. I was told that we should be active citizens and support democracy. But big money and industry lobbyists have changed that. I don't have 50,000 to donate so that a legislator will listen to me and vote the way I want! So what happens to me as a regular voter? When you don't listen to people, you make government irrelevant and wrong.

Ava Red tomahawk [amrt.e58@gmail.com](mailto:amrt.e58@gmail.com)

The proposed rules recently released by the Ethics Commission are very problematic. I am writing to suggest that you re-write these rules and make them MUCH STRONGER I voted for the Ethics Commission and I didn't do that so we could create just another bureaucratic office that will help shield lawmakers from being ethical and doing the right thing!

Kendrick Eagle [K\\_eagle22@hotmail.com](mailto:K_eagle22@hotmail.com)

Choice #6

Queen Tusk [trust1tusk@gmail.com](mailto:trust1tusk@gmail.com)

I am writing to OPPOSE the draft rules as proposed by the Ethics Commission. I don't think they go far enough in protecting the average North Dakota citizen from corporate and big donor political influence. Exempting campaign donations from conflict of interest rules is crazy. That only keeps politicians in the pockets of big money interest and NOT with the people. Go back to the drawing board! We need the Ethics Commission to be STRONG in their stances.

SashaRae Yankton [ysasharae@gmail.com](mailto:ysasharae@gmail.com)

I am writing to express my concern about the ND Ethics Commission. There are many temptations for corruption in our social and political life in North Dakota. I strongly support the principles and vision expressed in the Bismarck Tribune editorial of December 4, 2021. It calls for greater transparency in our political system. The editorial calls for a public educational campaign about the work of the commission and the dangers of corruption and conflicts of interest.

Brian P Brian Palecek <[BrianPalecek704@hotmail.com](mailto:BrianPalecek704@hotmail.com)>

My name is Bonnie Palecek and I live in Bismarck. I wish to express my deep disappointment in how the ND Ethics Commission is evolving. It seems that the Commission is in fact working to undermine its own authority and erode its own mission. The proposed conflict of interest rules and the recent picture of the "public hearing" in a small hallway with only a handful of chairs speak volumes. The picture says that few were expected and those who might show up would not be important enough to accommodate respectfully. The proposed rules insult our intelligence.

As a citizen who voted to establish the Commission believing it would act in good faith to uphold high standards of public service, I find this latest attempt to exclude citizen participation appalling.

Please change course. We deserve better.

Thank you.

Bonnie Palecek

704 Mandan St Bismarck 58501

Brian Palecek <BrianPalecek704@hotmail.com>Members of the ND Ethics Commission: