

October 24, 2019

Dear Sen. Larsen,

This letter is in response to your email (“Looking for Wisdom and guidance” – 12:53 pm on October 23, 2019) in which you requested feedback regarding your service as President Pro Tempore of the North Dakota Senate.

As North Dakota senators, we uphold standards of decorum, decency, and respect within the walls of our chamber. Though each one of us is elected to represent our individual districts, in our words and by our actions, we each also represent the entire North Dakota Senate and the legislative branch. As President Pro Tempore, that is even more true. The leadership position you hold is one that carries with it even greater responsibility, professionalism, and judgment than that of being an elected official.

Your words and actions have negatively and unnecessarily drawn attention to you, our chamber, and this state and were unbecoming of both positions to which you were elected. We believe that collectively and individually, we play a role in holding one another accountable to the standards we have set for the Senate. As such, we support Majority Leader Wardner’s call for you to resign your position as President Pro Tempore of the North Dakota Senate.

Signed,

The North Dakota Senate Democratic-NPL Caucus

- Sen. Joan Heckaman, Minority Leader
- Sen. John Grabinger, Asst. Minority Leader
- Sen. Erin Oban, Caucus Chair
- Sen. Tim Mathern
- Sen. Larry Robinson
- Sen. Jim Dotzenrod
- Sen. Richard Marcellais
- Sen. Kathy Hogan
- Sen. JoNell Bakke
- Sen. Merrill Piepkorn