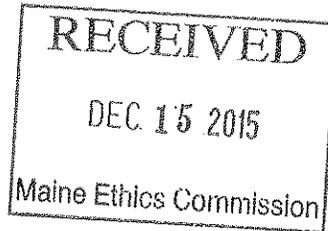


127th Legislature  
Senate of  
Maine  
Senate District 3



*Senator Rodney L. Whittemore*  
*Chair, Insurance & Financial Services*  
*3 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333-0003*  
*(207) 287-1505*

Dec. 16, 2015

Dear Mr. Wayne,

I apologize for this late comment in regards to the complaint filed on Mr. Allumbaugh by Representative Tucker; however I wanted to be sure that the Ethics Commission heard from me as the IFS committee chair.

I will be very brief and to the point.

On Mr. Allumbaugh's behalf it should be clear that he is not a lobbyist by profession. In spite of a token sum for his time and effort to testify before my committee I believe that he did not realize his responsibility to acknowledge himself as a lobbyist, which is understandable under the circumstances. In the three years that I have chaired IFS there have been times when professional lobbyists have forgotten to acknowledge their status, but other than in Mr. Allumbaugh's case, it was overlooked knowing that no deception was intended. The fact that no one on my committee indicated any concern at the time of Mr. Allumbaugh's testimony leads me to wonder why it was instigated many months after the fact. I question whether the politics of the bill Mr. Allumbaugh testified on has something to do with it.

Under these circumstances I would hope that the Ethics Commission would agree that Mr. Allumbaugh's apology be accepted and leniency be granted to him.

We must remind ourselves how important it is to have the public involved in our legislative process and how difficult it is for most to participate. To make an example of Mr. Allumbaugh under these circumstances would certainly be disappointing.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney L. Whittemore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Rodney L. Whittemore, District 3

Cc: Maine Ethics Commission Members