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Dear Indiana Senate Majority Caucus Member,

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the most wonderful time of the year with your family. I have not had an opportunity to share my version of events from last session and look forward to doing so. Please allow this letter to be the beginning of that process. Please know this, Senator Long and I have met privately twice, and I believe have made our peace with one another. This letter is my attempt to share the lens through which I experienced the last 12 months.

If you recall, I stopped attending caucus last year, intending not to return until Sen. Long publicly apologized for comments he made in my media market referencing me as I entered my 2014 re-election cycle. The narrative he created suggesting I divulged private caucus information was both inaccurate and unfortunate in my view. However, after my re-election I was prepared to lay aside my personal grievances and move forward with the caucus. So when he, along with Sens. Merritt and Hershman, asked me to not attend this November's caucus lawfully called by Indiana State Chairman Tim Berry to elect our upcoming leadership, I was a little taken back and surprised. But out of respect for them and our new members who were embarking on what will be remembered by each of them to be a very happy day, I didn't believe causing a fuss was in anyone's interest. But make no mistake about it, no one had the lawful authority to make this request other than Tim Berry.

To understand my viewpoint of these events, it's important for me to explain the history and relationships surrounding them. Zionsville is a newly added portion of my district. Senator Long's Chief of Staff, Jeff Papa, serves on the Town Council and will most likely be the first Mayor of Zionsville. His Council running mate was/is a young lady from Mexico named Susana Suarez. Our former Communications Director Lindsay Jancek successfully ran their team campaign for these positions. Lindsay has a close relationship with both Jeff and Susana and also has a very close friendship with former Freedom Indiana leader Megan Robertson. During the several months leading up to the primary filing deadline, there were multiple reports that Susana would challenge me in the 2014 GOP primary. My campaign took this intelligence seriously, engaged our political grassroots network contacting each registered Zionsville Republican household in my district multiple times. While the challenge never

materialized, we discovered that one of the drivers of this challenge threat came from Chad Pittman, former IEDC executive and close friend and political ally of Jeff Papa. Jeff is Senator Long's top aide. My team engaged Governor Pence through his former Chief of Staff Bill Smith. Chad shared his concern that I was a social conservative as a top reason he wanted to see me challenged. Chad particularly was supportive of the Freedom Indiana movement for full "Marriage Equality." There was also an incident in my previous district where I strongly supported the Trader's Point community and its desire to not have neighborhoods razed and beautiful and environmentally pristine areas contaminated with a brand new 865 road expansion through Zionsville. We all face challenges in our districts when we take positions on local planning and zoning matters. In this case, I felt standing up for the private property rights of my Pike Township/Marion County/Trader's Point constituents was important and again at the time Zionsville was not part of my district. Although Jeff has never said anything, I would not be surprised to learn that this created problems for him in Zionsville given his relationship to the Indiana Senate.

Zionsville and Boone County supported Richard Lugar over Richard Mourdock in the 2012 US Senate primary. My strength in Zionsville rested with my in-laws and their connections independent and apart from the GOP organization there. Each and every citizen has the right to support any candidate for office they so desire. However, I have felt over the last many months that the connections I just discussed were more than happenstance.

Before we had caucus where I disclosed my personal family experience related to the Marriage Issue, I had developed a whip count in an effort to try to help my friends who labor in the pro-family movement daily as well as key staff within Governor Pence's office. Many of you know of this whip count because I shared it with you. Based on this whip count I didn't believe there would be the support to pass the original Marriage Amendment even though I continued to hope that a path would materialize for us to get HJR3 to the voters once and for all in 2014. Earlier in the session and before Senator Long made the decision to assign the Marriage Amendment to Rules Committee, I met with him and Senator Steele on another legislative matter, my Constitutional Amendment dealing with historical Slavery references. At that meeting Senator Long stated the Marriage Amendment was coming to Judiciary and that we needed to count votes on the Committee. That process took place, and in my view it was clear Senator Steele had the support of his Committee members to pass the Marriage Amendment in whatever form deemed appropriate.

Senator Long later called a special caucus to announce his press conference stating that Judiciary would not get HJR3 but it was going to Rules Committee where no Committee Amendments would be entertained. I was unable to make it for this caucus meeting and for that I am sorry. At this point, I received many inquiries from pro-family organizations telling me they felt misled and there was an intentional effort to tank the Marriage Amendment. Whether there was or was not is water under the bridge. However, this distrust and concern led me to file my Amendment and, yes, I did so partly because I couldn't pin Senator Kruse down as to what he was doing and partly because I felt that if I did so, restoration of the Amendment might have had one final public shot so that our citizens could vote one way or the other for final resolution in 2014. I believed this would be a very long shot.

This point has been misinterpreted by several members of our caucus. I never said the only reason I filed was because of not knowing what Senator Kruse was doing or the timing of his efforts. It was a reason but not the only reason. Senator Long wanted to control the process and Senator Kruse is very deferential to Senator Long. I unfortunately have not developed this skill set. Because I filed the Amendment, I had many media inquiries. I use Twitter as a source of media relations, as many members of the Statehouse beat follow me. When I put out my tweet on the Senate floor, I did so as a convenience to me to address all media inquiries at one time. Senator Long approached me in the back of the chamber and we discussed this. He was not happy, and I respect and appreciated his concern. I honestly thought little of the tweet at the time and didn't think it to be a big deal, as I have literally put out thousands of tweets. However, this was not some sort of leak. No private information was shared. After we spoke I thought the matter was over. Later that evening I received two separate Statehouse media calls telling me that Senator Long had basically thrown me under the bus accusing me of leaking private caucus information.

I contacted Senator Long via text. Things kind of went downhill from there. My Twitter feed started trending. My daughters were called horrible things by radical homosexual extremists. At this point, I did what I do, which is engage the public and defend my family. I wanted to share my belief that the whole Marriage Amendment process was a sham and that the public was being deceived. I had believed this for some time but was hoping I was wrong. This was the point in time that I decided I had a duty to let the public know. I also decided I would vote no on the Marriage Amendment as then constructed because, as I shared with the caucus, we had a national legal expert pen a memo suggesting the one sentence amendment had little legal significance and, quite possibly, legal detriment. In short, I felt, and this legal expert backed me up, that to vote for the one sentence Marriage Amendment would be perpetrating a fraud on the public. The pro-family organizations and our Christian conservative base deserved better in my mind. Over that weekend, I was in contact with Senator Merritt as our Caucus Chair and shared everything on my mind with him. I was very disappointed to learn as our elected Caucus Chair, that none of this was shared by him with the Caucus, as I assumed this was part of his duty in this leadership position. I also was in contact with other members of our caucus on this subject.

When I decided to hold my press conference, I knew there would be consequences, and I decided to accept those consequences. The weekend prior to the final votes on HJR3, many members of our caucus were trying to whip votes. I disengaged from this and I didn't ask anyone to join me in my press conference. I didn't want to pull anyone else into this because I wanted to make the case without getting anyone else into hot water. While you all held your final caucus to discuss the final vote, I was praying for you in our Indiana Supreme Court law library. Quite honestly, I know this is a tough issue for many reasons, and I know there was a genuine desire on the part of much of our caucus to do the right thing, even though we may disagree on what that outcome looked like. Before that final caucus, as a result of information shared with me from the weekend's activities, I was slightly hopeful that there were enough votes to force the Marriage Amendment back to second reading where it could be restored. This obviously was wishful thinking on my part, as well as an incorrect assessment communicated to me, as many who indicated a willingness to force the issue backed down once

leadership asserted pressure. This is a testament to Senator Long and his team and a very low point for me as I watched very close friends cave under pressure.

That Thursday Senator Long asked me to meet him in his office along with Sens. Hershman and Merritt. There I learned he wanted to impose four sanctions: 1. Loss of my leadership position as Assistant Majority Floor Leader with the loss of financial pay coming with the position (\$5K I believe), 2. Loss of my Press Secretary, 3. Loss of my Ranking Member position on Judiciary and, 4. Movement of my seat on the Senate floor. I accepted all four without argument and shared with Senator Long a copy of everything communicated/distributed at my press conference. I told him at the time I had a different perspective than he had. At this meeting I was not asked to apologize to the caucus from my best recollection. They then went to the caucus and shared with you these four sanctions. That evening while at home having dinner with my family, the Indianapolis NBC affiliate newsroom, CH. 13, called me at home. "Senator Delph, Ch. 13 has just learned that you are receiving four sanctions from Senate leadership." They then listed each sanction asking for comment. As you can imagine the hypocrisy on this "leak narrative" in my mind is unbelievable.

After talking with Ch. 13, I called Senator Hershman and shared my concern. He told me if and when they find out who is talking to the media, they would receive the same type of sanctions. To date, there has been no movement. This unfortunately is not the end of what I believe to be leaks from caucus regarding private issues and conversations. That previous weekend when I was on Twitter and in communication with Sen. Merritt, I told him I wasn't coming back until Senator Long publicly apologized for his public comments in my media market. Brian Howey with Howey Politics, openly speculated within two hours on his website from "sources unnamed" that the theme of my news conference was an announcement that I was leaving the caucus. After Sens. Long, Merritt, and Hershman asked me to not attend this past caucus, Brian Howey was notified, and he shared almost verbatim the conversation I had with Sens. Long, Merritt, & Hershman at State GOP Headquarters. I am including with this letter an email I received from Brian Howey documenting this. The most disturbing to me, however, is that my Democrat opponent stated at public events and by means of 13 State Democrat attack mailers in Marion County that I had been kicked out of caucus. This idea that I had been "kicked out" had to be given to him from somewhere within the GOP Caucus, because at this point not participating in caucus was my decision for reasons previously stated.

In addition, what many of you may not know is on top of the four sanctions you were informed of, I was not allowed to issue a post-session newsletter, I was not afforded any SMCC staff or political support even though I was a top target of the Indiana State Democrat Party (US Senator Joe Donnelly and 2012 Gov. Candidate John Gregg and Glenda Ritz all raised money and supported my opponent going door to door with him), and I have not been allowed to mail constituents. I have also been removed from my position on the Tax & Fiscal Policy Committee. Just recently I was told I would not be allowed to mail a 2015 pre-session survey to my constituents just as I was disallowed to mail last year's post-session newsletter. Chad Pittman a GOP Precinct Committeeman in Zionsville and close political confidant of Jeff Papa openly supported my Democrat opponent placing yard signs in Zionsville including on his own property. Jeff Papa and Jen Carlton (Senate Majority Deputy Chief of Staff) both supported Susana Suarez in the caucus to replace former State Representative Steve Braun. And recall, Susana was

recruited to challenge me in a primary. Mickey Maurer, former Daniels Commerce Secretary and IBI owner, underwrote most of my Democrat opponent's campaign providing free office space and cash. He wrote several times that I had been kicked out of my caucus. And following my victory, and in my attempt to put all of this behind me by showing up at Indiana State Republican Chairman Tim Berry's caucus, I am told that I am not welcome back into caucus until I apologize. So if you were me, what would you think? In Military Intelligence, we call this link analysis. This was an election battle against an enemy like the Viet Cong. Thankfully, I have my own infrastructure apart from the SMCC. But know this, I felt like many associated with my caucus along with elements of the SMCC either worked against me or abandoned me. I have been very disappointed by this experience especially given the many tough votes I have taken over the past nine years with my caucus.

My final point is, what is the point of Super Majorities if we are not going to exercise the power our voters have entrusted to us? Last session our agenda consisted of Mass Transit, regulating church daycares, laying the groundwork for pre-K funding, and Common Core light. As a conservative, I don't believe this is a conservative agenda and definitely not in need of super-Majorities for passage.

I know that relationships have suffered as a result of this sequence of events. I will make a good faith effort to make amends, but I can't sit here today and honestly tell you I would have done anything differently. That would be untruthful. Part of me doesn't want to come back to caucus as a way to permanently separate myself from this false narrative that attacks my integrity. I was thankful that Senator Long agreed that over the course of our relationship and my tenure in the Senate I have not been thought of as one who speaks out of turn regarding private caucus matters.

Senator Long has a tough job and I have not always respected and appreciated the intricacies and the nuances of what he deals with on a day to day basis. I do believe that one shouldn't judge another man until one walks a mile in his shoes. I will try to be more mindful of this as we move forward. I am a strict constitutional conservative and will continue to espouse and articulate those positions to the best of my ability. To those of you who have suffered or have been offended or been caused to discomfort because of anything I have said or done, know that was not my intent and please accept my apology. My conscience is clean and Team Delph won re-election in 2014 against multiple enemies or opponents. We have another election cycle in 2016 and I am not planning on being on that ballot. My life focus is shifting a bit from the political world and my priorities are being rebalanced. For that I am thankful.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Senator Mike Delph