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March 29, 2021

Mr. Jeff Sigurdson
jeff.sigurdson@state.mn.us
Executive Director
Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public
Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Rep. Mortensen and North Star Liberty Alliance Campaign Finance Violations

Dear Jeff:

We represent the Minnesota DFL and submit this letter complaint on the Minnesota DFL's behalf pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 10A.022, subd. 3 and 211B.32, subd. 1. As set forth below, Rep. Erik Mortensen and North Star Liberty Alliance ("NSLA") have violated Minnesota campaign finance law. We request that the Board investigate the violations identified in this letter pursuant to its authority under Minn. Stat. § 10A.022, subd. 3, and assess appropriate penalties for these violations and any other violations discovered in the course of the Board's investigation.

I. Background

According to its website, NSLA is a Minnesota non-profit organization "created for the purpose of advancing the cause of liberty in the State of Minnesota."¹ The website states that NSLA "conduct[s] candidate surveys during election seasons to inform voters where candidates stand on key issues" but asserts that it "does not endorse any candidates for office."

NSLA's actions reveal a very different reality. NSLA is a hyper-partisan organization focused on opposing "the radical left" and exposing "RINOs."² Its focus is predominantly, if not exclusively, on attacking political opponents. NSLA's efforts are supported by first-term Representative Erik Mortensen who, signed a fundraising letter on behalf of the organization.

II. Failure to Register as a Political Committee

NSLA is a political committee. It is an association of two or more individuals, and while it claims to promote liberty and denies that it endorses candidates, its partisan attacks on Democrats

¹ <https://www.northstarlibertyalliance.com/>; Exhibit 1.

² Exhibit 2-3 ("What we will do is take back the power that is rightfully ours, put the Radical Left politicians back in their place, and reassert our RIGHTS to live our own lives as we see fit" and "expose RINO ('Republican in Name Only') politicians who campaign as 'fiscal conservatives'...").

Mr. Jeff Sigurdson

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and RINOs alike plainly are intended to “influence the nomination or election of one or more candidates.” As a political committee, NSLA is required to register with the Board and submit regular reports within 14 days after the committee has made a contribution, received a contribution, or made expenditures in excess of \$750.³ Without access to the committee’s records, it is impossible to know the amount of contributions it has received or the expenditures it has made. However, its recent fundraising efforts suggest that the committee likely has received more than \$750 in contributions this year.

NSLA has not registered with the Board. Indeed, its fundraising solicitation brags that “your contribution is not required to be publicly disclosed.” That would be true if NSLA were a non-partisan, issue oriented organization. But it is not. Instead, NSLA is hiding behind the artifice of issue advocacy in order to shield its overtly political conduct from disclosure and scrutiny. NSLA must register with the Board and disclose its contributions and expenditures as required under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 10A.

III. Candidate Control of a Political Committee

Minnesota prohibits candidates from exercising direct or indirect control of any political committee other than their own principal campaign committee.⁴ Rep. Mortensen’s fundraising solicitation on behalf of NSLA repeatedly speaks of the actions “we” will take. He states that “we will not sit back and take it” and asks individuals to send the enclosed “2021 Legislative Road Map Support Statement back to *me*.” It is apparent that Rep. Mortensen considers himself to be part of NSLA and this evidences the fact that, at a minimum, he exercises indirect control over the Committee. The Board should investigate the extent of Rep. Mortensen’s involvement in NSLA and assess appropriate penalties for any violation.

IV. Conclusion

We respectfully request the Board to conduct an investigation of NSLA and Rep. Mortensen and assess appropriate penalties for all of the violations.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.P.



Charles N. Nauen

Enclosures

c: Minnesota DFL
David Zoll

³ Minn. Stat. § 10A.14, subd. 1.

⁴ Minn. Stat. § 10.105, subd. 1.



Republican Senate Advances Bill To Reinforce Punishments Violating Walz' Unconstitutional Edicts

FEB 11, 2021

Minnesota Senate Republicans have publicly positioned themselves as staunch opponents to Governor Walz' illegal and unconstitutional edicts. This, unfortunately, is just an outward appearance....

[Read more](#)

Mask Mandate To Be Put In Omnibus Bill?

FEB 11, 2021

EXHIBIT 1-1

“When you can't pass it on its own, throw it into the omnibus bill.” That's the attitude that Republicans and DFLers alike have taken...

[Read more](#)

Rep. Haley Openly Admits Her Bill DOES NOT End Emergency Powers

FEB 09, 2021

The cat is out of the bag. In an effort to appease her DFL colleagues, Representative Haley admitted in a committee meeting on Friday...

[Read more](#)

Walz Impeachment Resolution Just Introduced in the House

FEB 08, 2021

The grassroots effort to Impeach Walz has been 11 months in the making. Your hard work has paid off. Today, Representative Erik Mortensen introduced...

[Read more](#)

Senate Republicans Play Into The Democrats Hand

FEB 05, 2021

Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse... Senate Republicans introduced another USELESS bill to "reform" Walz' executive powers. This bill would revoke...

[Read more](#)

Legislators MUST Cut Taxes, Decrease Spending

FEB 04, 2021

Governor Tim Walz has spent the last week pushing his radical budget proposal, which would seek to drastically increase taxes on Minnesotans. Republicans have...

[Read more](#)

New Bill: Politicians Want You To Wear Masks Forever!

FEB 03, 2021

If you thought Governor Walz' current mask mandate was bad, get ready for what liberal DFLers in the legislature have to offer. In an...

[Read more](#)

Business Owners Closing Doors Thanks To Heavy-Handed Government

FEB 02, 2021

It's no secret that hundreds of thousands of businesses have had to close their doors in the past year. Politicians will blame the nature...

[Read more](#)

Enough Is Enough - We Need A Clean End To Emergency Powers; Never Again

FEB 01, 2021

Enough with the games. Republicans in the state legislature have been putting on quite the show for the people of Minnesota. Fortunately, people...

[Read more](#)

More News

I'M IN

North Star Liberty Alliance is a Minnesota non-profit organization created for the purpose of advancing the cause of liberty in the state of Minnesota. We are focused on educating Minnesotans on liberty issues including Constitutional Carry and other civil liberties issues, government taxing and spending, and property rights. We also conduct candidate surveys during election seasons to inform voters where candidates stand on key issues.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) to get up-to-date information on what we're working on and how the cause of liberty is advancing in Minnesota.

North Star Liberty Alliance does not endorse any candidates for office.

EXHIBIT 1-5

GET IN TOUCH

Contact us

Don't post this publicly

First Name

Last Name

Email

Mobile phone (optional)

Send me email updates

Send me text messages

Get in touch

North Star Liberty Alliance

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Sign in with [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [email](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#)



NORTH STAR LIBERTY ALLIANCE

Please charge my: VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Name as it Appears on Card: _____

Card No.: _____ CVV#: _____
(3 or 4 digit code on back of card)

Exp. Date: _____ Amount of gift: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

North Star Liberty Alliance is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) organization. Your contribution, which is not required to be publicly disclosed and is NOT deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes, will be used for the advocacy of Conservative principles in accordance with the mission and purposes of North Star Liberty Alliance.

To make a NOT tax-deductible donation, make your check payable to: **North Star Liberty Alliance**

You can also make a contribution at: www.northstarlibertyalliance.com

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Thank You!

PO Box 443 • SAVAGE, MN 55378
northstarlibertyalliance.com



2021 Legislative Session Roadmap

We are already mobilizing the liberty-loving people of Minnesota to rise up and defend ourselves from the power-mad politicians who have gone way too far with their authoritarian schemes. They are destroying businesses, wiping out savings, and responsible for a rise in everything from crime to depression. Such a full-fledged assault must be met with a full-fledged defense of our freedoms and our rights. We aim to impeach Governor Walz for his dereliction of duty, strip current and future governors of the emergency powers that have hammered our citizens, defeat tax increases that threaten to drain citizens of wealth when we can least afford it, resist mandatory vaccinations and more. From the Twin Cities to Duluth, Rochester to St. Cloud, Bemidji to Brainerd and all points in between across our beautiful state, Minnesotans need to stand up and say "NO" to the out-of-control socialists threatening to stamp out the American Dream!

ROADMAP STEP ONE:



Grassroots Lobbying - Lawmakers in St. Paul need to know that a restoration of liberty is a priority for you and thousands of other patriotic voters. Through petition drives, letter-writing campaigns, social media outreach, and in-person lobbying days at the State Capitol, North Star Liberty Alliance can make our presence felt in a big way, putting lawmakers on notice that there is strong opposition to their heavy-handed socialism.

ROADMAP STEP TWO:



Public Education - We know the "mainstream" media has been cheering on lockdowns and mandates for ten months now, and Tim Walz uses his "bully pulpit" as governor to try and mislead the people and stifle voices of opposition. They'll continue to use fearmongering, they'll twist the facts, and they'll unload a tidal wave of propaganda trying to convince Minnesotans to submit more of our money, our freedom, and our rights. The North Star Liberty Alliance needs to use everything from billboards and social media, to church outreach and "earned media" (TV/radio/newspaper interviews) as we set the record straight and remind Minnesotans that in America, WE THE PEOPLE have all the power.

ROADMAP STEP THREE:



The Final Push - We'll rally our side to victory through attention-getting events, hard-hitting email blasts, and telemarketing programs that light up the Capitol switchboard with calls from Minnesotans outraged by Walz's lockdowns, socialist driven policies and tax hikes. **WE MUST STAND TOGETHER.**

It all begins today, with you!

Please detach this Support Statement below and include with your contribution.

2021 SESSION ROADMAP SUPPORT STATEMENT

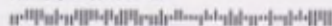
Dear Erik,

YES, you can count on me! I support your 2021 Legislative Roadmap and will do my part to impeach Tim Walz, stop the Socialist assault, and restore the rights and liberties of Minnesota's citizens. Thank you for leading this fight on Capitol Hill! To rally more liberty-loving citizens to our cause and overwhelm the Radical Left with our numbers and our voices of righteous outrage, I am enclosing my most generous donation of:

- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$35
- Other: \$ _____



William Sullivan
8341 Lyndale Ave S Apt 123
Minneapolis, MN 55420



N5LA21AH

Please make checks payable to:



PO Box 443 • SAVAGE, MN 55378

Please see reverse side to make a contribution by credit card and for additional website information.

REP. ERIK MORTENSEN
MINNESOTA, HOUSE DISTRICT-55A



Dear Friend of Liberty,

"IMPEACH WALZ!"

That's the rallying cry that has galvanized the people of Minnesota like I've never seen before, and we're not going to stop.

Minnesotans are fed-up with having our lives, our livelihoods, our God-given liberties and even our dignity trampled upon by the power-mad politician currently occupying the governor's mansion.

We will not sit back and take it.

What we will do is take back the power that is rightfully ours, put Radical Left politicians back in their place, and reassert our RIGHTS to live our own lives as we see fit.

Will you help?

As Minnesota's most powerful network of liberty-loving citizens anxious to protect our property, our prosperity and our freedoms under the Constitution, **North Star Liberty Alliance is launching the most aggressive grassroots mobilization program in its history.**

And my friend, impeaching the governor is only "step one." Before the smoke clears from the 2021 legislative session in St. Paul, we aim to:

- ✓ **Strip away the governor's Emergency Powers** and END the Emergency Powers Statute, so that no future governor can ever again abuse the citizens of Minnesota like we've seen during the past 10 months;
- ✓ **Stop forced vaccinations** – if you want it, it's your choice and your right, but NO government official has the right to put a needle in your body against your will;
- ✓ **Stop tax hikes** pushed by greedy politicians looking to pay for all the shutdowns they've been demanding. Instead of collecting more money from the suffering people of Minnesota, they should let us go back to work and earn for our families; and,
- ✓ **Expose RINO ("Republicans in Name Only") politicians** who campaign as "fiscal conservatives" but who are nowhere to be found in the state capitol when the people need someone to protect our tax dollars and put the brakes on runaway spending.

If this is an agenda you can support, please RUSH your enclosed **2021 Legislative Roadmap Support Statement** back to me in the envelope provided, and don't forget to include your most generous donation of **\$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100, \$50, \$35** or more to North Star Liberty Alliance, fueling our fight for freedom!

My name is Erik Mortensen, and I was recently elected to the State Legislature on a campaign promise to protect the American Dream from being destroyed by the Radical Left. I defeated a RINO

Over, please . . .

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in the Republican Primary, then beat a liberal Democrat last fall. And now that work is underway in St. Paul, I am not backing down from my pro-liberty platform one inch.

If anything – after seeing the way Tim Walz has tried to bribe small business owners (hoping they forgive him for destroying their life's work) – I am more determined than ever to open the state, end the shutdown, undo the economic and mental health damage Walz is causing, and enact concrete measures to defend your rights and the rights of the next generation.

That's why I am partnering with North Star Liberty Alliance today and why I hope you will respond ASAP with your best donation.

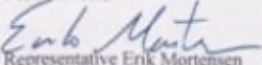
With everything at stake in the legislature, North Star Liberty Alliance is pulling out all the stops, running the largest and hardest-hitting grassroots lobbying program in its history, connecting with fed-up citizens in huge numbers and channeling their righteous outrage at the radical Socialists threatening to do permanent damage to our jobs, our freedoms, and our futures.

Your Roadmap donation will pay for:

- Petition drives, email, text message blasts and phone banks to alert citizens about key votes and direct them to contact their lawmakers in huge numbers;
- Radio, newspaper and digital ads that inspire Minnesotans to call the legislature in support of our liberty-preserving agenda; and,
- Publicity-generating events and in-person lobbying days that **take our message directly to the faces of the politicians working so hard to drain your freedom in secret and slink off** without hearing a peep of pushback from **WE THE PEOPLE!**

The media and elites refuse to discuss the costs of their inhumane shutdowns, so we must do it ourselves. Simply return your **2021 Legislative Roadmap** along with the best gift you can afford at this time. I know that the Socialists have been hammering our economy for almost a year now, so any gift you are able to contribute to this grassroots effort will be greatly appreciated.

The most important part is that liberty-loving citizens like you stand up for your God-given rights ASAP. Will you respond *within five days*? Please?

For Freedom,

Representative Erik Mortensen
Republican – Minnesota, HD-55A

P.S. Our nation's founders would **roll over in their graves** at the mere thought of the unconstitutional atrocities Minnesota's people have endured. Power-mad Socialists like Tim Walz push draconian lockdowns to "save even one life," they ignore the unemployment, crime, drug overdoses, domestic assaults, and suicides. I get letters and emails daily from small business owners facing bankruptcy and despair due to the government's oppressive policies.

We cannot accept such tragedies committed by selfish tyrants, so please help **IMPEACH WALZ**, **REPEAL** the emergency powers, **END** the illegal lockdowns, and **FREE THE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA!** Thank you and God bless you!

F-1204