

From: Zinecker, Drew
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Pinocci, Randall <Randall.Pinocci@mt.gov>
Subject: Safety Concern
Importance: High

Commissioner Pinocci,

I wanted to write to you about a growing concern of mine, and I intend to reach out to Chairman Johnson via phone later today as well. The erratic behavior of Commissioner Koopman has gotten to the point where I am concerned for my personal safety to a very serious degree.

It is no secret that Commissioner Koopman has what can only be described as an infatuation with Chairman Johnson and is dedicated to his demise. Months ago, he told me in his own office that the only reason he was going down this path is simply because he was not nominated, and elected chairman, but it has become clear that it has now gone far beyond that and he is showing signs of being mentally and emotionally unstable. As we now know from conversations that have occurred with many others, and his public attacks on me personally, that he is targeting me to the same degree as well. It is to the level of an outright obsession.

In my previous conversations with two other commissioners, it has been the consensus that Commissioner Koopman is mentally unwell to a degree that could be medically diagnosable and warrant professional treatment. Concerns have been expressed that Commissioner Koopman may become suicidal and ultimately take his own life because of his seemingly fragile mental state. While I share this same concern, I have the same concern as another person – that Commissioner Koopman may bring a firearm into the office and harm the Chairman, me, and potentially others.

As you will recall, during the NorthWestern Energy rate case, we held a special public comment session during the afternoon break. We had advance notice that grassroots activists would be coming to offer comment. In a private conversation with Commissioner Koopman, he told me that he was considering arming himself and concealing a firearm in the event someone was passionate enough to bring a firearm of their own and wished to harm others. While you know I am a huge Second Amendment advocate, I also believe in the rule of law, and it is posted that no firearms are allowed in the office. Clearly, he has no regard for this law.

As Commissioner Koopman becomes increasingly obsessed with the demise of Chairman Johnson, myself, and one other staff member, we have all seen him get more desperate as his ongoing efforts have been unsuccessful. Since his insane lies have failed to convince a majority of commissioners to join his crusade, we have both seen him reach out to rank and file staff, as well as outside the Public Service Commission, to find people to validate his efforts. No matter how creative he gets, when his plan of the week does not bare the fruit he seeks, he digs for a new angle. I am afraid that if he continues down this path and does not find success that he will become so desperate that he will in fact bring a gun into work to harm me and others.

On New Year's Eve, I went to a doctor at the state employee clinic to talk about getting anti-anxiety medication. I explained that I worked for the Commission and that Commissioner Koopman was leading a campaign against me and that his equal partner was Commissioner O'Donnell (O'Donnell has been upset with my refusal to comply with his many requests to use my time at work to aid in his re-election – one of which was so bad that I documented it with our chief legal counsel). At the time, I did not have the concern that Commissioner Koopman would bring a gun in, but that my main concern at the time was my epilepsy. All commissioners are aware that I suffer from the seizure condition, especially following my two seizures on June 1st and subsequent acute renal failure which left me hospitalized and tore up my shoulders enough to warrant ongoing medical treatment. The active targeting of me by Commissioners Koopman and O'Donnell caused me enough trouble that I was beginning to experience the level of anxiety, stress, and insomnia that leads to me having a potentially fatal seizure. I now am taking a medication because of those two which makes me constantly tired, have slow and slurred speech at times, dry mouth, and more.

I guess I am at a loss as to where to take my frustrations from Commissioner Koopman's harassment and increasingly unstable behavior and my now added concern that he may bring physical harm to myself and others. I would really appreciate any guidance that you may be able to provide as I am feeling pretty helpless and do not know where to go with my safety concerns from here.

Most Gratefully,

Drew

Drew Zinecker

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