

## Stephanie Chappell

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RE: HF 23 Whistleblower Reporting Expansion for Public Employees

Dear State Government Finance and Policy Members:

My name is Stephanie Chappell and I have developed great interest in how Minnesota's state agencies, semi-state agencies, federal agencies and statutes alter Minnesota historic sites and memorials. Adding protection for those who report "gross mismanagement or waste" to a legislative member or constitutional officer offers more individuals protection for doing the right thing when that thing isn't popular or results in costly delays.

I wholeheartedly support HF23.

The protection of employees who report to entities beyond their employer or immediate supervisor as amended by HF23 will protect individuals performing detailed observations such as those critical to adherence of state and federal regulations.

In my opinion, I continue to deal with whistleblower backlash from my role as an unpaid federal signatory selected by federal authorities via application. During my service, I witnessed a violation of state and federal guidelines and reported the incident to federal authorities. After a hearing, federal authorities directed the semi-state agency to announce the incident and corrective action to all Project signatories.

Following the hearing, I received verbal and written threats to stay away from the state-owned property. Completion of the Project did not end the threats, rather threats and harassment increased. Semi-state agency employees demanded I leave public areas and even changed a visitor policy demanding prior authorization for those in military, religious or other honorary dress before entering the public grounds.

I support HF23's wording that includes reporting to legislative and constitutional members and officials. Such individuals have the ability to protect employees beyond an employee's chain of command. The additional levels of reporting are ideal for signatories stuck in uncomfortable arenas with the option to report beyond federal or state Project supervisors.

Thank you for giving employees more levels to report fraudulent acts and wasteful spending.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Chappell  
District 17A