

December 12, 2008

Honorable Barbara Boxer
Honorable John Cornyn
Senate Select Committee on Ethics
Hart Building, 2nd & C Sts., NE
Room 220
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Recent News Coverage of Illegal Gifts to Sen. Coleman

Dear Messrs. Chairwoman and Vice Chairman:

This letter is an addition to a previous letter sent as a complaint against Senator Norm Coleman pursuant to Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics, which authorizes any person to file a sworn complaint with the Senate Ethics Committee “alleging that any Senator...has violated a law [or] the Senate Code of Office Conduct...in the performance of his or her duty as a Member...or has engaged in improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate.”

As stated in our previous letter, dated November 12 and attached, a recent civil complaint, sworn to under penalty of perjury, indicates that in May and June of 2007, a Texas businessman may have given \$75,000 in payments to Senator Coleman, through his wife, Laurie Coleman.

The letter details the allegations made in the lawsuit, as well as the Senate rules that would have been violated if the allegations are true.

This letter is being sent to share with the committee recent news coverage of the allegations in question. Specifically, On December 10, 2008 the Saint Paul Pioneer Press reported that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is looking into the allegations made in the lawsuit. The next day, several other Minnesota-based news outlets ran similar stories.

On the evening of December 11, 2008, KMSP (Fox News 9) broadcast a news report about extensive renovations to Senator Coleman’s house that cost more than \$400,000 and were conducted right before the alleged funneling of money took place. According to the news reports, Senator Coleman refused to sit down for an interview or answer reporters questions about the timing of this renovation and any possible relation it has to the allegations made in the lawsuit.

Once again, as stated in our previous letter, these actions constitute a potential ethical violation on the part of Senator Coleman, and deserve further investigation by the Senate Ethics Committee. As the recent conviction of Senator Coleman’s colleague Senator Ted Stevens demonstrates, strict enforcement of the Senate’s gift rules is critical to

maintaining the public trust. We request that the Committee undertake this investigation immediately.

Along with the citizens of Minnesota, we look forward to a response to this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Denise Cardinal', is positioned below the closing text.

Denise Cardinal
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