



August 2, 2010

Item for Immediate Release

Clarification on the Personal Assistant Issue

I want to take this opportunity to clarify my position on the issue of Commissioner Zimmer's decision to have a full-time personal assistant. I want it to be very clear that my objection to his decision has nothing to do with the person he chose. It has to do with making a very strong campaign promise and then changing his position even before taking office.

Amanda Miller, personal assistant to Commissioner Zimmer, is a very talented and capable person. I had the opportunity to work with Amanda on the Ehrlich campaign in 2006 and found her to be smart, informed and a tireless worker. She has served both the Republican Party and her community well in her positions at both the state and local level. We are now fortunate to have Amanda coordinating activities for the Ehrlich campaign in Carroll County and she is doing an excellent job. I fully expect that she will continue to be a strong contributor to the important work of state and local government and will be very successful in doing so.

Despite the talent and experience that Amanda brings to the job, I still believe that it was wrong for Commissioner Zimmer to criticize the commissioners at the time for having part-time assistants, only to hire a full-time one for him. I also believe it is wrong to make a very strong campaign commitment, in this case not having any personal assistant, and then do just the opposite before even taking office. It certainly calls into question what is being said during this campaign and how positions might change once the election is over. It is for this reason, that I have put my positions and proposals in writing for all to see.

I hope this clarifies my position on the matter and distinguishes in your mind the difference between the decision that was made and person who holds the position.

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