

# Alaska State Legislature

## Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

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### HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE Complaint H 17-01: Representative Dan Saddler

#### DISMISSAL ORDER AND DECISION

A complaint was filed on March 1, 2017 against Representative Dan Saddler. The House Subcommittee met on January 12, 2018, and determined that a probable cause decision should not be issued in this matter and that this complaint be dismissed.

Date(s) or the time period during which alleged violation occurred: February 10, 2017

#### Part of the Ethics Act that was allegedly violated:

*AS 24.60.030(a)(2) A legislator...may not use...government...resource for a nonlegislative purpose... for the private benefit of the legislator, or another person ...*

*AS 24.60.990(a)(2) “benefit” include all matters, whether tangible or intangible, that could reasonably be considered to be a material advantage, or material worth, use or service to the person to whom it is conferred; the terms are intended to be interpreted broadly and encompass all matters that the recipient might find sufficiently desirable to do something in exchange for.*

#### Description of the activities that are an alleged violation of Legislative Ethics Act:

Representative Dan Saddler announced on the house floor on February 10, 2017, a promotion for a commercial business event for a business called “FisheWear.” A staffer in Representative Saddler's office also used state resources to produce and send an email concerning and promoting this business to legislative email addresses which resulted in Representative Saddler providing a private benefit for another person. This email was sent while Representative Saddler was attending the House Floor session on February 10, 2017. In addition, the state resources used by Representative Saddler and his staff, were also for a nonlegislative purpose.

#### THE INVESTIGATION

The Administrator of the committee conducted the investigation regarding the allegations in the complaint. The investigative report to the committee was reviewed at the House Subcommittee meeting on January 12, 2018.

## **DISMISSAL ORDER AND DECISION**

On January 12, 2018, the House Subcommittee determined a dismissal of the allegations of a violation was appropriate in this matter.

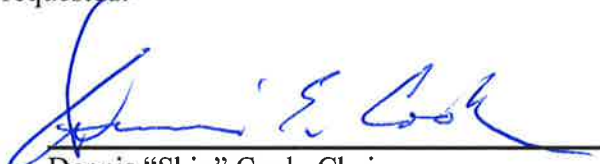
The committee notes that the language used in the introduction of the guest during the floor session suggests a private benefit for a private business or a nonlegislative purpose. The subsequent email produced and sent by a staffer for Representative Saddler went even further in providing a private benefit. The Representative should avoid even the appearance of impropriety under AS 24.60.010. Representative Saddler is urged to read committee advisory opinion AO 11-02 and to avoid the use of state resources for a private benefit or for a nonlegislative purpose which is prohibited under the Legislative Ethics Act. Representative Saddler is advised to instruct his staff as to the proper use of state resources.

The complaint allegations are dismissed against Representative Saddler but with the cautions noted from the committee.

## **GENERAL STATEMENT**

The subcommittee points out that Representative Saddler and his staff cooperated with the investigation and provided documentation when requested.

Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018  
by a majority of the House Subcommittee



Dennis "Skip" Cook, Chair

### **Members Participating**

Dennis "Skip" Cook, Chair  
Representative Chris Tuck  
Deb Fancher  
Lee Holmes  
H. Conner Thomas