

Stuart Relay

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Public Testimony Opposing the Appointment of Walt Monegan to the Alaska Public Offices Commission

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write to express my strong opposition to the appointment of Walter C. "Walt" Monegan III to the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC). The Commission plays a vital role in ensuring transparency, ethical governance, campaign finance oversight, and enforcement of Alaska's public accountability laws. Appointing someone with a record of ethical controversy, unresolved personal allegations, and politicized leadership decisions would severely undermine the Commission's legitimacy.

1. Contradictory Record on Domestic Violence

While Monegan has been publicly praised for his work on domestic violence, serious allegations in his personal life contradict that narrative. In an interview with Glamour magazine, Monegan's former spouse alleged that he dislocated her shoulder during a domestic dispute and threatened her with a firearm. These claims, though not pursued legally, raise critical questions about his fitness to serve in any public office dealing with ethics and accountability.

At a time when Alaska has the highest per capita rate of rape and some of the highest levels of violence against women in the United States, such allegations must be fully vetted and resolved — not ignored in favor of political appointments.

2. Involvement in the "Troopergate" Scandal

Monegan's firing as Public Safety Commissioner in 2008 was the catalyst for the "Troopergate" scandal, which exposed severe ethical lapses at the highest levels of state government. Monegan claimed he was dismissed for refusing to fire State Trooper Mike Wooten — Governor Sarah Palin's ex-brother-in-law — after pressure from Palin and her allies.

While Palin denied wrongdoing, the ABC News investigation and findings from then-Senator Hollis French revealed clear evidence of inappropriate pressure and communication between the Governor's Office and Monegan. Monegan's subsequent conduct, including unsanctioned lobbying trips to Washington, D.C., raised further concerns about his judgment and administrative compliance.

These events show that Monegan was not only enmeshed in a high-profile ethics scandal but also demonstrated poor boundaries between personal loyalties and professional responsibilities — an alarming trait for a potential APOC commissioner.

3. Discrepancies Between Public Praise and Termination

Governor Palin had previously celebrated Monegan’s leadership on public safety and domestic violence. Just three months prior to his firing, she stated publicly: “Walt has his heart in the right place,” acknowledging his front-line role in addressing violence against women and his commitment to systemic reform.

However, this praise quickly turned into a dismissal — either due to internal disagreements, unauthorized spending, or political retaliation. Such contradictions point to a lack of transparency or an intentional misrepresentation of facts, both of which reflect poorly on all involved. Monegan’s central role in this political turmoil undermines his credibility and raises questions about how he might handle politically sensitive matters within APOC.

4. Ethical Concerns and Conflicts of Interest

The APOC must remain above reproach. Its commissioners must be individuals with impeccable ethical records, free from controversy and political entanglements. Monegan’s past demonstrates the opposite: a tenure marked by politically charged disputes, blurred ethical lines, and unresolved questions about conduct.

Moreover, any future decisions he may render on APOC — especially concerning campaign misconduct or political lobbying — would inevitably be colored by his past and seen through a lens of bias or inconsistency. This threatens to weaken the institution’s authority and erode public trust.

5. Alaska Deserves Leadership Without Compromise

Alaska’s public institutions are already under immense scrutiny. The state leads the nation in domestic violence, rape, and systemic failures in protecting marginalized communities. APOC should be a model of ethical clarity — a place where the public feels confident that its leaders are held to the highest standards. Appointing someone with this degree of controversy undermines that goal.

Conclusion

Walter Monegan’s history — involving unresolved domestic violence allegations, deep involvement in the “Troopergate” ethics scandal, inconsistent professional conduct, and questions of judgment — makes him fundamentally unfit for service on the Alaska Public Offices Commission. The integrity of APOC cannot be sacrificed for political convenience.

I respectfully urge the Committee to reject this nomination and instead appoint an individual who embodies the transparency, impartiality, and ethical soundness that Alaskans deserve.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Allmeroth
Two Rivers

Myself

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