

PUBLIC STATEMENT

TODAY IS A VERY SAD DAY IN MY LIFE AND IN THE LIVES OF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS. I REGRET THAT DECISIONS THAT I MADE DURING MY SERVICE AS A STATE LEGISLATOR HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO HAVE RESULTED IN MY INAPPROPRIATELY MIXING MY LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS WITH MY POLITICAL COMMITMENTS. FOR SEVERAL YEARS, I HAVE ALLOWED CERTAIN OF MY STAFF TO PARTICIPATE IN PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITHOUT ENSURING THAT TAXPAYER FUNDS WOULD NOT BE UTILIZED FOR THEIR COMPENSATION. HAD I THEN RECOGNIZED THE ILLEGALITY OF THAT PRACTICE, I COULD AND SHOULD HAVE PREVENTED SAME. I HAVE ALWAYS FELT A CLOSE BONDING WITH MY CONSTITUENTS AND MY COLLEAGUES IN STATE GOVERNMENT. TODAY I FEEL AS THOUGH I HAVE FALLEN SHORT OF MEETING MY OBLIGATIONS TO THEM IN MY BEHAVIOR. IT IS MY FERVENT HOPE THAT BY MY ACTIONS IN COURT TODAY, MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, CONSTITUENTS AND COLLEAGUES WILL FIND IT IN THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS TO FORGIVE ME. I AM WORKING ON SEEKING TO FORGIVE MYSELF. I ACCEPT FULL AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTS THAT LED ME TO MY PLEA IN THIS CASE. I AM READY TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED UPON ME IN THE SENTENCING PHASE OF THIS CASE. NONE-THE-LESS, I HOPE AND TRUST THAT THOSE PEOPLE THAT I HAVE MENTIONED WHO I HAVE DISAPPOINTED WILL PERMIT ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO REDEEM MYSELF IN THEIR EYES. I PLEDGE TODAY TO BE MINDFUL OF AND ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN ALL OF MY FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

STEVEN FOTI
