



KATHLEEN VINEHOUT
STATE SENATOR

November 11, 2015

The Hon. Nickolas J. McNamara
Dane County Circuit Court
215 S. Hamilton St.
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Judge McNamara,

I am writing to provide a character reference for the defendant David Lovell. I have known Mr. Lovell since I was first elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 2007. For my first four years in the Senate, I served as Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Higher Education. Mr. Lovell was assigned as the Legislative Council staff member to that committee.

In this capacity, he worked closely with my staff and me helping us understand legislation and respond to questions raised by committee members. He was always responsive, professional, thorough and dependable. Sometime our committee was involved in contentious or controversial legislation and had public hearing lasting 12 to 14 hours without a break. At all times, Mr. Lovell was eager to provide assistance. He was always patient and considerate to legislators and to the public.

In addition to my experience with Mr. Lovell in my capacity as Committee Chair, I also worked with him both in crafting legislation and in drafting amendments to stop destructive legislation. There are many times when he went above and beyond the call of duty in his work. I think of two instances, both related to bills deregulating services.

In October 2007, some in the Legislature sought to deregulate video service providers – cable companies. In 2011, action in the Legislature deregulated telephone providers. Both pieces of legislation were highly complex and involved the detailed interaction of state and federal law and court precedence.

I opposed both bills. I did not have the support of the majority, and in the first case, was working against members of my own party. With these bills, and many others, Mr. Lovell was infinitely patient and persistent in his assistance to me. He helped answer questions, draft amendments and pointed out details I might have missed that helped me in my goal of protecting Wisconsin cable and telephone consumers.

Mr. Lovell also provided support to the committee that dealt with these issues. He was bound by rules to keep confidential his conversations with committee members, myself and other legislators. He did this scrupulously.

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Mr. Lovell worked hard to prepare readable, informative documents describing the bills and their effect on existing state law. Time was short and the topic was exceedingly complex. He worked late and through the weekend. You may know what a struggle it is for the Legislature to keep up with the legal resources in the private sector. (AT&T – who benefited from both bills – reminded me they had 17 floors of attorneys in just the Chicago headquarters.)

Even after the bills had passed and been signed into law, Mr. Lovell assisted me in providing updates on federal action and assisted me in drafting legislation. He was always quick to stop my office or give me a call when he had information that would assist me in accomplishing my legislative goals to protect Wisconsin consumers.

Finally, I have known Mr. Lovell in capacity as Legislative Council staff for the Special Committee on State Tribal Relations. This committee is bicameral, bipartisan, and has citizen appointments representing every Native American Tribe in Wisconsin. Mr. Lovell worked very hard to ascertain concerns of the tribes, draft legislation and complex background documents. Again, this area involved the interplay of state and federal law including treaties and court decisions. Many times, I was impressed with his extraordinary diplomatic skills in finding answers to thorny problems I had not thought resolvable.

In summary, Mr. Lovell is a hardworking, intelligent, persistent, dedicated public servant. He has extraordinary analytic and diplomatic skills. Wisconsin legislators are more informed and Wisconsin law more responsive to citizens' concerns because of his work.

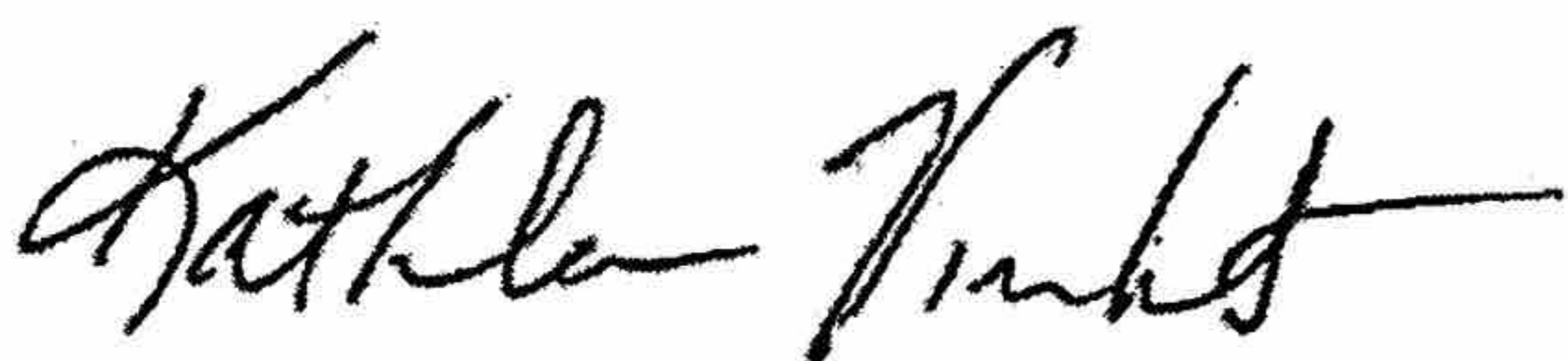
The Wisconsin Legislature has lost a valuable team member with the resignation of Mr. Lovell.

I was shocked and disturbed when I learned of the allegations against Mr. Lovell. The allegations are completely inconsistent with the skilled expert I worked with for eight years. I never observed him engage in any behavior other than that of a dedicated professional.

I know Mr. Lovell has taken responsibility for his actions and has deep remorse for his mistakes. He told me he sought counseling, which has been helpful to him in learning about his actions and what led him to act as he did.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a character reference for Mr. Lovell. Please contact me if you have questions related to my letter. Thank you for your work in serving our state.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Vinehout
State Senator
31st District