



Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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Heider Responds to Comptroller's Water Authority Report

Rochester, New York – August 14, 2006: In response to a scathing state audit of the Monroe County Water Authority that revealed abuse of power by administrative officials, Monroe County Legislator Travis Heider, D-Brighton, called for including Democrats on the Board to achieve stronger oversight and accountability. Legislator Heider also referred the matter to the Monroe County District Attorney for investigation and will be contacting the New York State Attorney General's office for additional review.

"I am extremely concerned about the Comptroller's report, which uncovered blatant misuse of ratepayer dollars by Water Authority officials for personal financial gain," stated Heider, "Due to lax oversight by the Water Authority Board, a former agency director and other employees received nearly \$500,000 in *unearned* pay and benefits."

Heider was recently appointed Democratic legislative liaison to the Water Authority and attended his first meeting last week.

"I will push for true bi-partisan board composition, as state law intended," added Heider, "Adding Democrats to the Board will lead to a better system of checks and balances."

Members of the current Water Authority Board, appointed by the President of the County Legislature, are registered Republicans and Conservatives. For many years, Democrats have been excluded from the Board, seen as a violation of the state law that requires two-party representation on the board.

Democrats in the Monroe County Legislature have been pushing for more balance on the board, and for more transparency on how board and Authority officials conduct Water Authority business.

To review the Comptroller's report:

<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/2006/others/monroewater.pdf>

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