



Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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Democrats Demand Action on Water Authority Scandal

Rochester, New York – August 18, 2006: Democrats in the Monroe County Legislature are demanding a strong response to the State Comptroller's scathing audit of the Monroe County Water Authority. This afternoon, they submitted two proposals asking the county to take further action on behalf of the authority's ratepayers.

One proposal would require the County Executive to provide the legislature with information on all legal options available to recover inappropriate payments made to water authority personnel and to reduce liabilities that may result from such payments.

"We need to find out if the misappropriated money can be recovered and make sure that ratepayers do not suffer for the ethical violations that occurred at the authority," says Legislator Travis Heider, D-Brighton, the proposal's sponsor.

The water authority has asked its law firm to investigate options to recover the money; Democrats, however, say that this is not sufficient.

"The lack of oversight by the authority's board at the time of the improper payments suggests that a body not involved with day-to-day operations at the authority should conduct a review of the board's legal options," says Heider.

The second proposal calls for a reorganization of the water authority's board, stipulating that two members of the board be appointed by the minority leader of the legislature.

The board currently comprises five Republicans and two Conservatives, excluding Democrats entirely.

"For too long, residents of Monroe County sharing the same political affiliation as the minority party have been unrepresented on the water authority's board. This is, without question, contrary to the intent of the state law that created the authority," says Heider.

Copies of the proposals are attached.

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