

Minnesota Senate

Minnesota House



State Capitol

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

July 25, 2014

Zygi Wilf
Owner and Chairman, Minnesota Vikings
9520 Viking Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Dear Mr. Wilf,

You and the Vikings have been asked repeatedly to conduct a fair, impartial and transparent investigation into claims by Chris Kluwe about actions, statements and the culture inside the organization. And if those claims were found to have merit, you and the Vikings have also been urged more than once to take sufficiently strong action. There has been failure on both counts. We are writing for two reasons. Release the entire investigation that is now complete. Secondly, the course of action that has been chosen in response to Mike Priefer's now admitted homophobic statement and his repeated lying about the matter is totally inadequate.

The summary prepared on behalf of the team that was released on July 18 at least made two things clear—that coach Mike Priefer did in fact say something shockingly out of bounds in any civil society and that he repeatedly lied about it. Make no mistake – the comment he made to “...round up all the gays, send them to an island, and then nuke it until it glows” is tantamount to calling for the genocide of all LGBT people. It was disappointing to read in the Star Tribune on July 25 that Mike Priefer's biggest regret about making the comment amounted to a public relations error and his being seen in a bad light, saying, “The biggest thing I regret is I brought a lot of bad publicity to the Minnesota Vikings and I felt like I let my family down.”

Donald Sterling's highly offensive bigoted remarks did not come close to calling for the destruction of an entire class of individuals. Even so, he was rightly banned by the NBA and forced to sell his basketball team. A three, possibly shortened to two, game suspension for Priefer is an underwhelming response. Imagine if Priefer had called for the extermination of any other group of people – communities of color or religious minorities, for example. It is a safe bet that the rush to sweep the whole subject under the rug would not be so fast.

It bears remembering that the taxpayers are contributing nearly a half billion dollars to build a new stadium for the Vikings, allowing a considerable boost in its revenues. It is also important to

make note of the fact that Minnesota taxpayers are being asked yet again to contribute to the bottom line of an already very profitable industry with \$10 billion in revenues, in the form of continuing a sales tax exemption on ticket purchases for the NFL's 2018 Super Bowl. In light of this enormous public effort, it is imperative that your organization be held accountable. This is especially true when it would seem that Vikings leadership is turning a blind eye to such egregious misconduct and seems determined to remain opaque to the very public which has invested so much in the success of your team.

We look forward to your response. More importantly, we anticipate responsible and responsive actions from the Vikings organization to these grave concerns.

Sincerely,



Sen. D. Scott Dibble, District 61



Sen. Richard Cohen, District 64



Rep. Karen Clark, District 62A



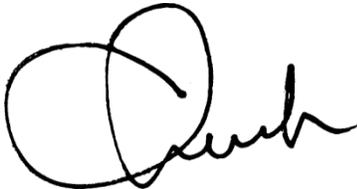
Rep. Susan Allen, District 62B



Rep. Frank Hornstein, District 61A



Sen. John Hoffman, District 36



Sen. Chuck Wiger, District 43



Sen. Melisa Franzen, District 49



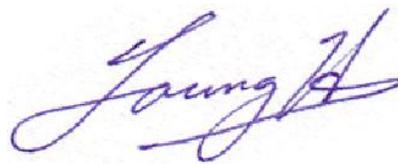
Sen. Sandra L. Pappas, District 65



Sen. Jim Carlson, District 51



Sen. John Marty, District 66



Sen. Fong Hawj, District 67



Sen. Ron Latz, District 46



Sen. Bev Scalze, District 42



Sen. Kari Dziejcz, District 60



Sen. Susan Kent, District 53

Barb Goodwin

Sen. Barb Goodwin, District 41

cc: Governor Mark Dayton
Commissioner Kevin Lindsey, Minnesota Department of Human Rights
Roger Goodell, Commissioner, National Football League
Lester Bagley, Vice President for Public Affairs and Stadium Development, Minnesota Vikings
Michele Kelm-Helgen, Chair, Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority
Mayor Betsy Hodges, City of Minneapolis