



Woodbury County Board of Supervisors

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MEMBERS

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MATTHEW A. UNG
SIOUX CITY

MARK E. NELSON
CORRECTIONVILLE

FINANCE / BUDGET DIRECTOR
DENNIS BUTLER

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
KAREN JAMES

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY / PUBLIC BIDDER
HEATHER SATTERWHITE

Dear Rocky De Witt,

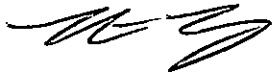
During the September 5th Woodbury County Board of Supervisors meeting, you asked for an explanation in writing regarding why the board was considering your removal as commissioner from the Law Enforcement Center Authority. As the agenda item stated as submitted by myself and Supervisor Keith Radig, and stated by other board members during discussion, the change was not a criticism of your service, but reflected the board's increasing need to be more informed through a sitting supervisor (i.e. Mark Nelson), as you once were yourself. Following your election to the Iowa legislature and your resulting resignation from the Board, you were automatically removed from the LEC Authority by the existing resolution. I immediately proposed and the board supported a new resolution to reappoint you despite not being a sitting supervisor. This was a complementary move that targeted only you--as you know, waiving the requirement to be a sitting supervisor was not written in the resolution appointing Mark Nelson on September 5.

You have given nearly four years of volunteer service to the LEC Authority, and years before that as a fellow board member seeking a solution to the greatest and most expensive long-term problem facing Woodbury County in several decades. You have been an integral part of a solution when many wanted to simply do the easiest thing in the world and complain. Like us, detractors have dishonestly blamed you and the Authority for the pandemic's supply chain issues, historic federal inflation, and even the fact that certain companies didn't submit different bids. Thank you for your time and effort during these extraordinary challenges.

We are also thankful that Supervisor Nelson has become more informed by his consistent attendance at LEC Authority meetings and has accepted his new role as your replacement. Unfortunately, this happening in a more natural way after the building completion as originally intended became too much of a moving target for the board to delay this replacement further. Regardless of the information communicated out from closed sessions regarding potential litigation, we believe it is imperative for the county's appointee to apply their knowledge of any situations involving the LEC Authority towards financial recommendations to fellow board members and informed votes during the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget process this coming January. The county board has provided almost all of the local funding and bears almost all of the financial loss that would result from the jail's completion date being further delayed for any reason. With that delay apparent, we know our constituents expect the degree of oversight that can only be provided by an elected county official, which is something I'm sure you understand in your role as elected state official.

Again, the change was not a criticism of you personally, and those who pounce on the opportunity to do so do not speak for the Board of Supervisors. Imperfect as the path has been, you used your position to move towards a solution in the real world, and we greatly appreciate you for that.

Sincerely,



Matthew Ung
Chairman, Board of Supervisors