



Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

## Washington State Senate

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June 22, 2020

David Ammons, Chair  
Public Disclosure Commission  
PO Box 40908  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Chair Ammons:

We are writing to express our sentiments about the issue of reposting Personal Financial Affairs statements ("F-1") in June.

We proudly support open transparency in government and the right of any individual or organization to request and receive F-1 reports directly from the commission. That practice, common until recent action by the commission, is an extremely low bar of required effort for any media source or individual interested in the data contained in F-1 reports. We believe the risks and vulnerabilities associated with posting these detailed financial reports on the Internet is a disservice to the most elementary privacy rights of filers. We urge the commission not to repost F-1 statements on the Internet for global actors to access and abuse.

As we have seen recently, there is a historic vulnerability for personal information in Washington's public data bases. We know and have seen that foreign players are constantly examining public resources and the information contained in F-1s is highly valued in their marketplace. The unique nature of the content contained in the F1 reports provides a rich treasure trove for those constantly building personal profiles in order to commit fraud and other nefarious purposes.

Financial disclosure forms are the only reports held by the commission that require disclosure of personally identifiable information in addition to the person's name. The listing of spousal information further adds to the vulnerability.

In this instance, we would encourage you to reflect on both the letter and spirit of the people's initiative. We believe you can aggressively support full and open access to F-1s through a simple request to the PDC while showing the most modest level of effort to protect filers. Moreover, we encourage you to revisit the words of former Washington Supreme Court Justice Charles Wiggins's dissent in a recent case where he wrote "In our age of technology, information is fuel. And personal information is collected and shared around the world--with good and bad actors alike." He went on to write "(t)he right to privacy is not extinguished because the information may be available from third parties. Nor is the right surrendered upon public service."

Therefore, we urge the commission to return to the time-honored policy of making this information available upon request from the PDC.

Sincerely,

Senator Sam Hunt  
22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

Senator Reuven Carlyle  
36<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator Andy Billig  
Majority Leader  
3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Mike Padden  
4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Dean Takko  
19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District


  
Senator Christine Rolfes  
23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Kevin Van De Wege  
24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District


  
Senator Emily Randall  
26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Steve Conway  
29<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Phil Fortunato  
31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Jesse Salomon  
32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District


  
Senator Karen Keiser  
President Pro Tempore  
33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Joe Nguyen  
34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Rebecca Saldaña  
37<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator June Robinson  
38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Liz Lovelett  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Jamie Pedersen  
43<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Mona Das  
47<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

  
Senator Patty Kuderer  
48<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

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