

**Media Contact:**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boise, ID – Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023

Senator Brian Lenney Stripped of Vice Chair Role by Pro Tempore Chuck Winder

Rep. Heather Scott
District 2A
Co-Chair

Sen. Tammy Nichols
District 10
Co-Chair

Sen. Scott Herndon
District 1

Rep. Dale Hawkins
District 2B

Rep. Joe Alfieri
District 4A

Rep. Elaine Price
District 4B

Rep. Tony Wisniewski
District 5B

Sen. Dan Foreman
District 6

Sen. Cindy Carlson
District 7

Rep. Mike Kingsley
District 7A

Rep. Jacyn Gallagher
District 9A

Sen. Brian Lenney
District 13

Sen. Glenneda Zuiderveld
District 24

Senate Pro Tempore Chuck Winder doubled down on his authoritarian stance by abruptly removing Senator Brian Lenney from his Vice Chair position on the Commerce and Human Resources Committee. The decision, delivered via email, lacked clear justification or prior dialogue, casting doubt on the fairness and openness of the process.

This is the third instance where Senator Winder has targeted the speech of Idaho Freedom Caucus members with little reason or evidence. It appears that Winder's continued harassment is based on our members' more conservative political perspectives. He seems to be attacking any legislator who resists his intimidation and bullying tactics.

Winder's latest actions reveal a troubling pattern—unilaterally disciplining Senators critical of Idaho's spending increases and reliance on federal debt. Timed at the onset of an election season with numerous contested races, his behavior raises concerns about his attempts to influence the electoral process.

Senator Lenney stated emphatically, "I haven't had a conversation with Senator Winder in over seven months, and without warning or detailed reasoning, this news lands in my inbox. Let's be clear: Senator Winder is neither my boss nor my dad. I serve the people, not Senator Winder. I remain committed to standing up for conservative principles and opposing any power play that seeks to silence and control me or my votes in the Senate."

The Idaho Freedom Caucus opposes Winder's authoritarian tactics, aiming to enforce a single narrative and stifle debate. Using his leadership position to penalize opposition raises concerns. Even though we disagree with Senator Winder's tactics, we expect these disagreements will not hinder our proposed legislation.

The Idaho Freedom Caucus remains undeterred. Our dedication to Idaho's people and principles of transparency and accountability remains unshaken.

DISTRICT 20
ADA COUNTY



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Idaho State Senate

SENATOR CHUCK WINDER
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

November 6, 2023

Senator Brian Lenney
P.O. Box 3753
Nampa, Idaho 83653-3753

Re: Removal as the Vice Chair of the Commerce and Human Resources Committee

Dear Senator Lenney:

It has been brought to my attention that on countless occasions you have aggressively attacked, disparaged, and degraded fellow members of the Senate, members of Senate leadership, and members of the general public. Further, you have continually disrespected and harmed the legislative process by violating rules governing decorum. Although we expect Senators to advocate zealously on behalf of their constituents, Senators must do so in a manner that protects the integrity of the process and ensures the people's business may be done in an efficient and effective manner.

When a Senator fails to conduct themselves in a manner expected of an elected official, I as President Pro Tempore have a duty to act. In such instances, I may exercise my authority to remove Chairs and Vice Chairs from their positions of leadership. As such, I have decided to immediately remove you as Vice Chair of the Commerce and Human Resources Committee; you will only be allowed to serve as a member of the committee.

At this time, I do not plan to pursue a formal ethics complaint, but if your misconduct continues, you may leave me with no choice. Moving forward, I hope that you will engage Senate leadership, members of the Senate, and members of the general public with respect and civility. I encourage you to reflect upon your misconduct and your removal as Vice Chair to correct your wrong doings as you continue to serve in the Idaho Senate.

Sincerely,



Chuck Winder
President Pro Tempore