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February 8, 2018

VIA EMAIL

Senator Peter Courtney sen.petercourtney@oregonlegislature.gov

Senator Jackie Winters Sen.JackieWinters@oregonlegislature.gov

Representative Tina Kotek Rep.TinaKotek@oregonlegislature.gov

Dexter Johnson dexter.johnson@oregonlegislature.gov

Lore Christopher lore.d.christopher@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: Senator Jeff Kruse

All,

We represent Senator Sara Gelser. We are writing to express our concern that the special committee on conduct hearing regarding Senator Gelser's formal complaint about Senator Jeff Kruse's sexual misconduct might be prematurely and improperly cancelled. Legislative Branch Personnel Rule 27(8)(b) is quite clear that "[w]hen, a special committee on conduct receives an investigator's final finds and recommendations report, the committee **shall** schedule a public hearing and give notice to the complainant and alleged harasser of the date and location of the hearing. The hearing may not be set for a date that is less than 14 days nor more than 45 days after the committee receives the investigator's final report." (Emphasis Added). At the hearing, the committee may recommend one of four options including "(C) Expulsion; or (D) That the committee take no further action." Nothing in the rule allows the committee to decide before the hearing that the committee should not take further action, which is the effective result of an unauthorized cancellation. Indeed, to allow the hearing to be cancelled against an active paid member would undermine the mandatory hearings whole purpose.

It would also be an act of inexcusable cowardice that insults the brave woman who came forward, many reluctantly out of fear of backlash, to speak out against Senator Kruse's reprehensible conduct. We recognize that the hearing is immaterial should he resign with an effective date before the hearing. But if he refuses to accept responsibility for his actions, this body must do what Senator Kruse refuses—follow your own rules, and hold him accountable.

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You have all been on record stating that there is a process that must be followed. This is the process you created. It must be followed.

We understand that a hearing like this may be ugly. That, however, is Senator Kruse's fault. He has not earned a pass, much less any severance for sitting at home and doing nothing. He squandered that opportunity when he failed to heed your warnings at the informal complaint stage. The "Times up!" for sitting on the sidelines. The state and the country are watching. Do the right thing, not the politically expedient one.

Very truly yours,



Andrew Altschul

cc: Sen. Sara Gelser
Dana Sullivan