



Internal Review Confirms Hagedorn Took Immediate and Decisive Action

- Congressman canceled contracts, made personnel and office changes, consulted with the House Administration Committee, and self-reported findings to the House Ethics Committee -

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BLUE EARTH, Minn. — An internal review commissioned by Congressman Jim Hagedorn confirms Hagedorn took immediate and decisive steps to uncover all facts and reestablish best practices to administer his office's franked mail program.

Hagedorn became aware of possible excessive mail services charges on June 18, 2020. Within 48 hours of discovery, Hagedorn:

- Commissioned an internal review by outside counsel
- Ordered cancellation of franked mail contracts
- Fired his chief of staff
- Directed office staff to receive new training
- Reestablished his policy that no contracts be awarded without pre-approval from pertinent House committees or administrative offices

Hagedorn also formally informed the House Ethics Committee of the internal review and its scope, and provided all findings and relevant information to it. He has also consulted with the House Administration Committee about the matter and looks forward to working with it on ways to improve the franking guidance and resources it offers to all Members of Congress and staff.

Hagedorn retained attorney Elliot Berke, a noted attorney well-versed in House Ethics, to conduct the review. Mr. Berke's review is attached.

"The internal review confirms that soon after Congressman Hagedorn became aware of possible excessive franked mail pricing, he took immediate action and implemented corrective steps, ultimately self-reporting it to the House Ethics Committee," said Berke.

"Congressman Hagedorn fully agrees that he is ultimately responsible for actions of those in his employ, even when those actions are taken without his knowledge," said Berke. "But upon thoroughly reviewing this matter for more than two months, I can state with certainty that Congressman Hagedorn acted in good faith and did not personally direct, profit or intend for his office to bypass any established office procedures or potentially or technically violate any rule of the House."

The review helps to clarify that Hagedorn has not overspent his \$1.4 million annual office allotment, as has been alluded in press reports. In fact, his office is on target to show a \$75,000 surplus for 2020.

Lastly, findings confirm Hagedorn's office fully complied with House rules governing the content of franked mail. In fact, all mailings were pre-approved by the Democratic majority of the House Committee on Administration.

"I've taken corrective action and provided all available information to the House," Hagedorn said. "My focus moving forward is continuing my work to promote the interests of southern Minnesotans by sustaining our farmers, supporting small businesses, and maintaining our fine rural hospitals. Our nation is truly at a crossroads. First District residents can count on me to vote as a conservative and defend the United States and our American way of life."

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Attachment - Hagedorn Internal Review Summary

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF HAGEDORN
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