

Dear County Board chairman Ty Wessell,

The Leelanau County conflict of interest policy states: "A clear example of a conflict of interest occurs when a public servant openly advocates the approval and funding for a program, which would result in a benefit to the public servant."

Joe DeFors is chair of the Leelanau County Energy Futures Task Force. In that capacity, he helped write and openly lobbied for passage of a state grant that will pay him \$45 per hour. His name and salary are specifically stated in the grant.

The conflict of interest policy further states that persons may report conflicts in writing to the chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for investigation. As county commissioners Kama Ross and Gwenne Allgaier had knowledge of and were complicit with the ethical violation, they should be recused from the ethical violation investigation.

Please consider this written document as notice of a violation of the county Conflict of Interest policy. Should an investigation verify the facts previously presented, Mr. DeFors should be removed from the Task Force for seeking personal gain in his position.

Janet Shoaf
May 21, 2024