



**OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2007

CONTACT: Nick Smith
503-986-1351

**HOUSE SPEAKER SHOULD EXPLAIN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT
GIVEN TO UNION LOBBYIST**

In Violation of House Rules, Democrats Permit SEIU/OPEU Lobbyist onto House Floor

SALEM— The House Democratic leadership violated House Rules on April 17 when it allowed a registered union lobbyist to sit on the House Floor during the chamber’s daily session. House Republican Leader Wayne Scott (R-Canby) filed a complaint today with the Chief Clerk of the House, requesting an investigation into why she and the House Speaker ignored an obvious rule violation.

The complaint relates to the presence of SEIU and OPEU lobbyist Aimee Wilson, whose labor organization has business before the House of Representatives.

“Republicans and Democrats supported rules changes at the beginning of the session to improve the integrity of the House of Representatives,” Rep. Scott said. “I consider any violation of the Rules of the House to be a very serious matter and I believe the Speaker and Chief Clerk would be remiss in their duties if they did not take action to investigate this matter.”

House Rule 17.01(6) states that “no person who is a lobbyist as defined in ORS 171.725 shall be permitted on the floor or side aisles of the House during its daily session.” House Rule 17.01 charges the Sergeant at Arms with enforcing this rule. Multiple news media accounts of the April 17 Floor session report Wilson’s presence on the Floor.

“Registered lobbyists should not have access to the House Floor, regardless of the circumstances,” Rep. Scott said. “This is a test of the Speaker’s leadership, and his stated commitment to promoting ethical practices in the House of Representatives.”

##

Complaint document is attached.