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**Statement from Chair Steve Young**  
**on Behalf of the Northern Michigan University Board of Trustees**  
*Regarding false assertions in Rep. Sara Cambensy letter to Attorney General Dana Nessel*

Several individuals and organizations have already voiced concerns over the many inaccuracies contained in Representative Sara Cambensy's July 28, 2022, letter to Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel.

While the Northern Michigan University Board of Trustees and the university itself are not involved in the development project that Rep. Cambensy has targeted in her letter, we are compelled to correct two very important factual errors that directly relate to the board. This board cannot and will not stand silently by in the face of false accusations leveled against individual board members or the board as a whole.

In her letter, Rep. Cambensy incorrectly alleges that, at a December 2021 meeting, shortly after terminating then-University President Fritz Erickson, the Board of Trustees changed the conflict of interest policy in the board bylaws. This is false. There have been *no* changes in the conflict of interest policy since July 2015. The changes made in 2015 are changes that then-President Erickson, himself, reviewed and submitted to the board for approval.

The conflict of interest policy as amended in 2015 can be found in section 2.13 of the [NMU Board of Trustees Bylaws](#) posted on the university's website.

We request that Rep. Cambensy correct this false allegation immediately, as she has done with another inaccuracy in the letter.

Rep. Cambensy further incorrectly asserts that Dr. Erickson's termination was tied to his concerns about a conflict of interest in the pending development project. This is a false assertion that Dr. Erickson, himself, has stated for months.

Dr. Erickson is fully aware of the reasons he was fired. The termination followed his failure to comply with clear direction from the board, provided to him on multiple occasions in the months leading up to his termination, calling for him to correct many serious performance issues. Because he didn't correct these issues, as an at-will employee, he was fired.

Several of these performance issues were laid out publicly in the motion for termination made at the September 24, 2021, special session of the board. Dr. Erickson was terminated in a unanimous vote at that meeting. A [transcript](#) and [recording](#) of the meeting can be found on the NMU Board of Trustees page on the university website.

We do not take pleasure in publicly rehashing issues leading up to Dr. Erickson's termination, nor do we want to divert our time and attention from advancing the mission of the university. However, in her reckless failure to investigate the facts, Rep. Cambensy has forced us to do so.