



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

KATHY BERNIER

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Representative Bernier Addresses Committee Member's Outburst *Women Can Be Sexist, Too*

Madison...State Representative Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie) issued the following statement following a meeting yesterday of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, which she Chairs:

"Yesterday, Representative Chris Taylor (D-Madison) took a line of questioning with Elections Commission Administrator, Michael Haas, and Deputy Administrator, Meagan Wolfe, that was outside the scope of the topic they were invited to discuss – Elections Commission cyber-security policies and procedures. As Chairwoman, I allow members wide latitude to ask questions of witnesses that appear before the Committee. When Rep. Taylor's questions had clearly diverted from the properly-noticed topic, creating a potential open-meetings violation, I asked that she refocus her questions back to security issues agency staff was invited to discuss.

It is insulting that Rep. Taylor turns her back to me, the Chair of the Committee, and does not ask permission to pursue numerous questions. Rep. Taylor displayed a stunning lack of respect not only for me, as Chair of the Committee, but for the legislative process. Further, Rep. Taylor's outburst disrupted the testimony of Mr. Haas and Ms. Wolfe. Rep. Taylor's tantrum was embarrassing to witness, both for committee members and for members of the public who were attending our meeting to testify on a legislative proposal.

I serve on three separate committees with Rep. Taylor. I have not witnessed a lack of respect for the Chair 'men' presiding over the other two committees on which we serve. Perhaps the fact I am Chair 'woman' has something to do with Rep. Taylor's belief that committee rules, and respect for the committee process, don't apply to her."

Wisconsin Eye broadcast the Committee meeting live yesterday. A link to the archived video can be found by clicking [here](#) (or by typing <http://www.wiseye.org/Video-Archive/Event-Detail/evhdid/12027> in a new browser window). Rep. Taylor's questioning of Mr. Haas and Ms. Wolfe begins at 27:25 of the video.

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