

**THOMAS M. BAKK**

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**Senate**

**State of Minnesota**

January 3, 2018

Lieutenant Governor Michelle Fischbach  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Michelle,

Congratulations on becoming lieutenant governor of the State of Minnesota. As you know, the Minnesota Constitution prohibits you from simultaneously holding the offices of state senator and lieutenant governor. This means that, from the time you became lieutenant governor following U.S. Senator Tina Smith's resignation from that office, you can no longer hold the office of state senator.

I'm aware from media reports that you do not agree with this and plan to hold both offices. As your former colleague, I respectfully ask you to formally acknowledge that you no longer hold the office of state senator for Senate District 13. This will remove any uncertainty regarding the current vacancy in that office and is in the best interest of the Senate, the State of Minnesota, and your former constituents. In addition, this will also remove any conflict of interest or issues related to the constitutional separation of powers occurring since you are now a member of the Executive Branch.

I wish you the best in your new role, and I look forward to working with you and Governor Mark Dayton.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bakk', written over a horizontal line.

Thomas M. Bakk  
Senate DFL Leader  
State Senate, District 3

CC: Paul Gazelka, Senate Majority Leader  
Cal Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate



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