

Legislative Ethics Board
P.O. Box 40482
Olympia, WA 98502-0482

Dear Sir:

I am writing to file a legislative ethics complaint against Rodney Tom for his taking of per diem during the 2005 legislative session when he was not in attendance to vote. In particular, he has one of the worst attendance records of any legislator during April 2005, yet he received his full per diem even during the weekends when the House was not in session and during the days (April 13, 14, 15, 16) when he missed 68 votes. A total of 94 missed votes from January 2005 through October 2006.

I would think that if a member is absent the way Rodney Tom was during April 2005, they would have the common decency and the ethical strength to not take taxpayer's money.

I am curious as to how ethical is it to be paid for work not performed? I have confidence you being the Legislative Ethics Board can explain this act.

The \$2,160 dollars that he took from taxpayers is not a large sum, but it speaks volumes to his sense of propriety. It also may be a signal for the House to delineate clearer rules about when per diem should be taken and when, indeed, it should not.

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