



Washington State Senate

Senator Mark Schoesler
9th Legislative District

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Sen. Billig,

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It has come to my attention that at least two of your Senators have used their offices to illegally use state resources to engage in political activity.

Today, Dodd Bayley in **Sen. Claire Wilson's** office reserved the Washington Room on the Legislative Campus for use by the group Emerge Washington for what is clearly labeled **CANDIDATE TRAINING**.

The webpage for Emerge Washington clearly says:

“RECRUIT

We find Democratic women who should run for office and get them into our training programs.

“TRAIN

We teach Democrat women the cutting edge campaign tools they need to run and win.

“CONNECT

We provide our alumnae with a powerful network of fellow alums, elected officials and gatekeepers who can open doors.”

<https://wa.emergeamerica.org/>

Meagan Arndt in **Sen. Sam Hunt's** office also reserved Senate hearing room ABC for an Emerge Washington **TRAINING** on 2/23 and 2/24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

At approximately 10:15 a.m. on 2/25/19 the Emerge Group was introduced from the Senate Gallery and **Sen. Claire Wilson** gave a speech on the Senate floor promoting their political activity.

Sen. Billig, this is a clear violation of state law using state resources for campaign purposes. Can you imagine if Senate Republicans reserved Senate meeting rooms for candidate training by the Republican National Committee? We would rightly have a complaint filed against us with the Legislative Ethics Committee.

I expect the same to happen in this case.

I am demanding that the Emerge Washington group have their Washington room reservation canceled for today. Those training to run for public office should not start their careers learning how to use facilities paid for with taxpayer dollars in order to advance their political careers.

I expect an ethics complaint will be filed against **Sen. Hunt** and against **Sen. Wilson** for their involvement in using taxpayer funded facilities to advance campaigns.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sen. Mark Schoesler

Cc: Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate
Sarah Bannister, Deputy Secretary of the Senate
Jennifer Strus, Legislative Ethics Counsel
Victoria Cantore, Senate Counsel
Jeannie Gorrell, Senate Counsel