

MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT DATA PRACTICES ACT REQUEST

March 18, 2021

Keith Ellison, Esq.
Or Responsible Authority
Office of the Attorney General
445 Minnesota St.
Suite 1400
St. Paul, MN 55101-2131

By Electronic Mail: datapactices@ag.state.mn.us

Re: Telephone records

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of Energy Policy Advocates (EPA), recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit public policy institute under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. §13.01, *et seq.*, please provide copies of the following records:

1. All telephone bills for Attorney General Keith Ellison for billing periods in or which cover i) June 2020, ii) February 2021, and iii) March 2021 in the possession of the Office of the Attorney General as of the date you *process records responsive to* this request (not the date this request is received by your Office);
2. All telephone bills for Executive Assistant/Scheduler Jillian Sully covering i) June 2020, ii) February 2021, and iii) March 2021 in the possession of the Office of the Attorney General as of the date you *process records responsive to* this request (not the date this request is received by your Office); and

3. All telephone bills for Outreach Coordinator Keaon Dousti covering i) June 2020, ii) February 2021, and iii) March 2021 in the possession of the Office of the Attorney General as of the date you *process records responsive to* this request (not the date this request is received by your Office).

This request includes for the land line(s) provided for the named individuals and any cell or mobile phone(s) provided for the named individuals by the Office or otherwise the State. We understand billing cycles may not begin on the first day of the month and therefore that, e.g., June 2020 for any particular device or phone line could be covered by two bills

We note that “[l]ong-distance telephone bills paid for by the state or a political subdivision, including those of representatives, senators, judges, constitutional officers, heads of departments and agencies, local officials, and employees thereof, are public data[.]” pursuant to Minn. Stat. Ann. §10.46. As such, at minimum, records responsive to this request must include calls to or from area codes other than 651.

We understand that in some instances a public body may charge a fee for the cost of the search, examination, review, copying, separation of confidential from nonconfidential information, and mailing costs. If your Office expects to seek a charge associated with the searching, copying or production of these records, please provide an estimate of anticipated costs.

As noted earlier in this request, EPA is a non-profit public policy organization dedicated to informing the public of developments in the area of energy and environmental issues and relationships between governmental and non-governmental entities as they relate to those issues. EPA’s ability to obtain fee waivers is essential to this work. EPA intends to use any responsive

information to continue its work highlighting the nexus between interested non-governmental entities and government agency decision-making. The public is both interested in and entitled to know how regulatory, policy and enforcement decisions are reached. EPA ensures the public is made aware of its work and findings via media, its website epadvocates.org, its partnership with the non-profit public interest law firm Government Accountability & Oversight, P.C., and its counsel GAO's ClimateLitigationWatch.org project dedicated to broadly disseminating energy and environmental policy news and developments. The public information obtained by EPA have been relied upon by established media outlets, including the Washington Times and Wall Street Journal editorial page.¹

We look forward to your response. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me by email at ncornettlaw@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Neal Cornett
Attorney at Law

¹ See, e.g., See also, EPA In the News at <http://epadvocates.org/news/>.