



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

December 1, 2010

Ross Arneson  
Blue Earth County Attorney  
Blue Earth County Justice Center, 2nd Floor  
401 Carver Road  
P.O. Box 3129  
Mankato, MN 56002-3129

Susan Gaertner  
Ramsey County Attorney  
50 Kellogg Boulevard West  
Suite 315  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

***Re: Board of Pardons***

Dear County Attorneys Arneson and Gaertner:

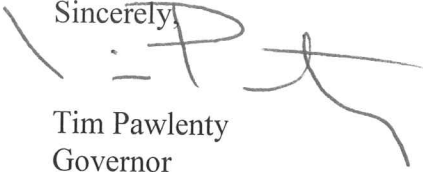
As the Chair of the state Board of Pardons, I am writing to you regarding recent press accounts concerning alleged felony criminal activity for which the Blue Earth County Attorney's Office has brought charges that may have been committed by a successful pardon extraordinary applicant before and during the consideration of the pardon application in the fall of 2008.

The Application for Pardon Extraordinary paperwork submitted by each applicant seeking a pardon from the Board of Pardons plainly states that the form constitutes a sworn affidavit for which the information provided is declared under oath to be true and correct. Question 2 of the Application requires the applicant to state his/her date of discharge from sentence and confirm that s/he "has been law abiding since that time." I am writing to seek your assistance in the evaluation by the appropriate office of a potential perjury prosecution should this applicant be determined to have falsely stated under oath that he has been law-abiding since the time of his sentence discharge. In addition, to the extent that submission of a fraudulent misrepresentation to the Board of Pardons may have occurred, your determination(s) as to whether either of your offices have jurisdiction to address this matter is appreciated.

I am very troubled by the prospect that a pardon applicant may have been committing serious crimes while representing to the Board of Pardons that he was law-abiding. While the current press accounts concern criminal charges that have not been proven yet in a court of law, the potential perjury or fraud should be investigated. I will defer to your coordinated determinations as to which county would be the appropriate venue for any such action.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If you need any additional information regarding this matter, please contact Board of Pardons Secretary Randolph Hartnett.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Pawlenty', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Tim Pawlenty  
Governor

cc: Lori Swanson, Attorney General  
Lorie Gildea, Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court  
Randolph J. Hartnett, Secretary of the Minnesota Board of Pardons