



Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson
900 Court Street NE, Capitol Room 136
Salem OR 97310

Sent via email to oregon.sos@oregon.gov

July 24, 2018

Dear Secretary Richardson,

I am writing to request an investigation into Rep. Knute Buehler's failure to maintain his residency within House District 54, in direct violation of the Oregon Constitution.

In the June 7th edition of the Portland Tribune article titled "Former Beaver makes pitch for politics," Kerry Eggers reports:

"Buehler, a Roseburg native who has lived in Bend since 1997, recently moved to Tualatin as a hedge toward his gubernatorial campaign. Buehler and his wife, Patty, lived there for four years in the 1990s, when he worked at Oregon Health & Science University. Buehler, an orthopedic surgeon, won election to the Oregon House of Representatives in 2014. Son Owen, 24, works in San Francisco while daughter Hannah, almost 21, is a student at Pitzer College in Claremont, California.

"It's almost back to the future for me," says Buehler, who turns 54 on Aug. 1. "The first house we bought was in Tualatin. After 25 years, I told my wife, 'We've come full circle. Now we're living in an apartment.'"

On July 5, 2018, Knute Buehler further detailed his move on Mark Mason's radio show on 1190 KEX in Portland. A transcript is below.

MASON: [9:27] Knute Buehler of Tualatin now

BUEHLER: [9:29] Of Tualatin now, yeah, just down the street.

MASON: [9:33] No longer Bend

BUEHLER: [9:34] Yeah, and soon to be a resident of Salem

MASON [9:35] (laughter) Alright, we'll leave it at that.

On its face, Buehler's statements assert a violation of ARTICLE IV, Section 8 (7)(a) of the Oregon Constitution, which states:



“A person may not be a Senator or Representative if the person at all times during the term of office of the person as a Senator or Representative is not an inhabitant of the district from which the Senator or Representative may be chosen or which the Senator or Representative has been appointed to represent.”

We believe that as the state’s chief elections officer and the official who declares whether a vacancy exists in a legislative position, it is your responsibility to investigate whether Rep. Buehler has failed to maintain his residency as required under the Oregon Constitution and thereby has abandoned his responsibilities to his constituents in House District 54.

Thank you,

Jeanne P. Atkins
Chair, Democratic Party of Oregon

CC: Steve Trout, Director, Oregon Elections Division, Oregon Secretary of State
via elections.sos@oregon.gov