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Decker must change course

An editorial
November 26, 2007

The troubling decision of Senate Majority Leader Russ Decker, D-Weston, to set as his legislative priority the advancement of measures promoted by corporate special-interest groups -- such as the radical rewrite of cable regulations that was recently approved by the Senate -- has provoked an appropriate response from Wisconsinites who put ethics ahead of partisanship.

When Senate Democrats solicited longtime donors about a fundraising event set for this week, they got this response from a veteran giver who shared the e-mail with The Capital Times:

Thanks for your invitation, but based on their actions to date, I do not support the Senate Democrats.

Why don't you just give AT&T and the Tavern League a call? I'm sure they will continue to support you as a wholly owned subsidiary, which you obviously are.

The Assembly Dems at least have an excuse, being in the minority. But if you keep acting the way you are, you will soon have that excuse as well.

That's blunt language. But bluntness is needed. Decker is taking the Senate Democrats in a dangerous direction if he hopes to distinguish his caucus from legislative Republicans, who long ago confirmed their status as wholly owned subsidiaries of the special interests.

If Decker was smart, he would abandon his current course and take the lead in promoting the sort of sweeping campaign finance and ethics reforms that are needed in the Capitol.

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