# Statement Regarding the Leelanau County Board's Release of the Investigation Summary

The problems identified in the summary released by the County Board did not begin with my administration. The summary itself acknowledges that some issues predated the complaint, others were corrected, and some involved ambiguous policies or resulted in no actual policy violation. More to the point, these concerns must also be understood in the context of longstanding issues concerning the independence of the County's Finance and Human Resources departments and interference in County operations by an elected official and her staff—issues that were investigated, documented, publicly reported, and well known to the Board long before I became County Administrator.

The fundamental issue remains the same: The Board established independent Finance and Human Resources departments. The obvious purpose for this action was to protect their operations from interference by this elected official. That independence must be more than a statement of policy. Existing Board actions, taken over a number of years, has been insufficient to prevent the interference that I experienced as Administrator. Until the Board takes direct, firm, and lasting action to preserve independent operations, these institutional problems will continue, regardless of who serves as Administrator.

I am relieved that resolving these problems is no longer my responsibility. As a County resident, I sincerely hope the next permanent Administrator receives the Board's full and unwavering support. That person will need it.