

*Monica Morrill*  
*P.O. Box 101*  
*Stoystown, PA 15563-0101*

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The Honorable Chairman of the Committee on Ethics  
Congressman Charles W. Dent via fax and mail  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Cc: The Honorable Linda Sanchez, Ranking Member; The Honorable Patrick Meehan, Member; The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Member; The Honorable Susan Brooks, Member; The Honorable Kenny Marchant, Member via fax only

Subject: An Open Letter to Congress regarding Congressman Bill Shuster

Dear Honorable Chairman Dent,

Like father, like son. That is the sad conclusion many people in and around Pennsylvania's 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are drawing when they hear of the constant news of scandalous dealings involving an elected U.S. Congressman and his "private and personal relationship" with lobbyist Shelley Rubino. The coincidences are uncanny. Bill Shuster's father, Bud Shuster was also the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee when he was caught having an inappropriate relationship with his former assistant turned lobbyist. It appears that there is a family pattern involving the toxic mix of elevated political power influencing the nation's transportation and infrastructure policy, and highly motivated women.

Thus, I am deeply concerned about the joint activities between elected officials and any industry representatives that have a special interest in manipulating legislation when there might be a conflict of interest. Special interests that undermine and even dampen the competitiveness of industries need to stop.

Previous rebukes of Bud Shuster, then a 14-term congressman, in a press release "Statement of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct" on October 5, 2000 representing the Committee on Ethics, have done little to deter Bill Shuster's own behavior. On October 4, 2000 that same Committee voted unanimously to sanction Bud Shuster by issuing a Letter of Reproval for an alleged violation of "the Code of Official Conduct" bringing "discredit to the House of Representatives." I encourage you to read both: 1) the full October 5, 2000 Press Release and 2) the Report of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct printed on October 16, 2000 (over 150 pages long, plus exhibits).

Some might conclude that Bud Shuster's incident was over 16 years ago and that times have changed. On the contrary, one would just need to question numerous incidents with his son, Bill: Has Shelley Rubino, lobbyist for Airlines for America (A4A), ever bought Bill anything like a coffee, lunch, or paid for a taxi ride or vacation? According to the *Politico* last April, Rubino made over \$400,000 in 2013 and "A4A and its employees have contributed more than \$20,000 to Shuster's campaign committees." While those donations may be within the FEC limits, these cozy relationships put into question the motives of either party. Would Shuster have accompanied both Shelley Rubino and her

boss Nick Calio last month at a vacation resort in Florida immediately after Mr. Calio testified before Congressman Shuster's committee on airline legislation if Shuster weren't Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee? It's dubious.

- Specifically, 18 U.S.C. § 201, Subsection C, Paraphrase B, states the following:  
“being a public official, former public official, or person selected to be a public official, otherwise than as provided by law for the proper discharge of official duty, directly or indirectly demands, seeks, receives, accepts, or agrees to receive or accept anything of value personally for or because of any official act performed or to be performed by such official or person;”
- The House Ethics Committee Manual's standards (2008 edition) concerning gifts found on pages 39 and 40, which states:

***“Gifts Given on the Basis of Personal Friendship***

A Member, officer, or employee may accept any gift that is given by an individual on the basis of personal friendship, unless the official has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of his or her official position with the House, and not because of the personal friendship (House Rule 25, clause 5(a)(3)(D)). However, a gift exceeding \$250 in value – including, for example, a trip – may **not** be accepted on the basis of personal friendship unless the Standards Committee issues a written determination that the personal friendship provision applies (House Rule 25, clause 5(a)(5)).”

Has the Standards Committee issued “a written determination” regarding the personal friendship between Bill Shuster and Shelly Rubino? One has not seen other chairmen of committees regularly associating, and indeed having “private and personal” relationships with lobbyists who have special interests in those same committees. Where are the boundaries in the relationship between Bill Shuster and the Airlines for America lobbyists? That is not clear to the American public. I would like to request clarity on this matter.

It's stunning to witness Bill Shuster following his father's disgraceful ways. Why hasn't there been an investigation on Bill Shuster in your Committee? Perhaps, Chairman Dent, your silence gives the appearance that you might seek to protect a political ally and fellow-ranking member of the Republican Party. The safety concerns alone involving the American airline industry would make a number of leaders investigate this unhesitatingly. After nearly a year of this news, at the very least, Pennsylvanians need assurances that with you at the helm, the House is maintaining it's high standard of ethics. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Monica Morrill