Hagedorn has been reckless with our tax dollars. Hagedorn’s office funneled nearly four hundred and fifty thousand dollars in taxpayer money to two companies owned by a Hagedorn staff and another staffer’s family member. The companies charged significantly more than competitors and even billed for false expenses. Hagedorn is now facing an ethics complaint for mismanaging his office and awarding contracts that were “clear violations” of House rules.

Hagedorn’s Office Directed Contracts To Two Companies For Mail Pieces, Through A Congressional Process Called Franking. “Hagedorn’s First District re-election campaign released what it called an internal review over the weekend asserting that Su had directed contracts for the mail pieces, funded through a congressional process called franking, to two companies. One is owned by Su’s brother and the other is owned by John Sample, another part-time employee in Hagedorn’s professional office.” [Star Tribune, 9/08/20]

Hagedorn’s Office Paid Invocq Technologies, A Firm Owned By Part-Time Employee In Hagedorn’s Office, John Sample, More Than $110,000. “Hagedorn’s First District re-election campaign released what it called an internal review over the weekend asserting that Su had directed contracts for the mail pieces, funded through a congressional process called franking, to two companies. One is owned by Su’s brother and the other is owned by John Sample, another part-time employee in Hagedorn’s professional office. [...] Invocq Technologies, a Texas-based company Sample co-owned, has received more than $110,000 from Hagedorn’s office.” [Star Tribune, 9/08/20]

Hagedorn Paid Abernathy West LLC, Nearly $340,000 For Printing Services Between October 2019 And March 2020. “Hagedorn paid Abernathy West nearly $340,000 for printing services between October and March, according to his office’s spending records, with more than a dozen payments ranging from about $7,000 to more than $62,000.” [Minnesota Reformer, 8/15/20]

Abernathy West Was Owned By Peter Su’s Brother. “One is owned by Su’s brother and the other is owned by John Sample, another part-time employee in Hagedorn’s professional office. [...] The internal review found much of that money was spent with two firms connected to the staffers at “significantly” higher rates than other companies charge. Abernathy West has received nearly $350,000 for constituent mailing since last year. Invocq Technologies, a Texas-based company Sample co-owned, has received more than $110,000 from Hagedorn’s office.” [Star Tribune, 9/08/20]

Peter Su Was Hagedorn’s Chief Of Staff. “Peter Su, the former chief of staff, gave the Star Tribune an audio recording of the conversation, which he said occurred on Aug. 7. Hagedorn, in an interview, did not dispute that it was an authentic recording.” [Star Tribune, 9/08/20]

Abernathy West LLC Was Registered As A Limited Liability Company In Delaware.

[Delaware Division of Corporations, accessed September 2020]

Big Corporations And Small Businesses Register In Delaware To Minimize Taxes And Skirt Regulations. “Big corporations, small-time businesses, rogues, scoundrels and worse — all have turned up at Delaware addresses in hopes of minimizing taxes, skirting regulations, plying friendly courts or, when needed, covering their tracks. Federal authorities worry that, in addition to the legitimate businesses flocking here, drug
traffickers, embezzlers and money launderers are increasingly heading to Delaware, too. It’s easy to set up shell companies here, no questions asked.” [Washington Post, 6/30/12]

According To An Internal Review By Hagedorn’s Office, It Was Charged “Significantly More” Than Fair Market For Franking Services By Abernathy West And Invocq. “No actual contracts were located for either vendor, but the fees charged by Abernathy West and Invocq were compared against three independent firms recognized in the industry. Based on these objective comparisons, it appears that Abernathy West and Invocq charged Congressman Hagedorn’s office significantly more than the fair market for franking services,” according to the review.” [Faribault Daily News, 9/9/20]

Hagedorn Spent Nearly 40% Of His Yearly Taxpayer-Funded Office Budget In First Three Months Of 2020. “Hagedorn, a self-described fiscal conservative who represents the state’s 1st District, has the distinction of being the highest-spending Congressman so far this year, blowing through more than half a million dollars in the first three months of 2020 — nearly 40% of his yearly taxpayer-funded office budget. He’s spent almost twice as much as the average House of Representatives office, according to Legistorm, a company that tracks congressional budgets.” [Minnesota Reformer, 8/15/20]

According To LegiStorm, Hagedorn Spent The Highest Amount Of Any Representative On Printing And Franked Mail. “A hearty chunk of Hagedorn’s expenses are itemized as printing (roughly $215,000) and so-called (and controversial, for obvious reasons) ‘franked mail’ (roughly $58,000) to his constituents. As LegiStorm points out, that’s about 19 percent of his entire annual budget… which, again, is somewhat above average. As in: ‘the highest of any representative.’ How much more? Almost 25 times more: ‘The average member has spent 0.8 percent of their budgets on mass mailings,’ LegiStorm says.” [Bluestem Prairie, 8/15/20]

HEADLINE: “Jim Hagedorn, Fiscal Conservative, Spent $570,000 Of Taxpayer Money In Three Months” [City Pages, 7/16/20]

Invocq Technologies Incorrectly Charged Hagedorn’s Office $16,5000 For Postage Fees. “Sample will return $16,500 to Hagedorn’s office, after the review found Invocq Technologies incorrectly charged a $0.25 per-page postage fee to two vouchers.” [Faribault Daily News, 9/8/20]


Hagedorn’s Office Was Facing An Ethics Complaint For His Office’s Spending. “A Minneapolis lawyer filed the first known ethics complaint against U.S. Rep. Jim Hagedorn on Tuesday, all but assuring Congressional investigators will take a look at questionable spending by his office over the past year, if they aren’t already doing so. […] Her complaint alleges Hagedorn, a first term Republican, violated ethics rules by allowing more than $111,000 to be paid to Invocq Technologies, a company controlled by John Sample, an employee in Hagedorn’s office. It also alleges that Hagedorn’s former chief of staff, Peter Su, violated ethics rules by ‘quietly awarding his brother a contract that was significantly above market rate without justification.’” [Minnesota Reformer, 9/16/20]

The Deputy Director Of The Watchdog Group Citizens For Responsibility And Ethics Claimed Hagedorn’s Office Spending Was A “Clear Violation.” “I imagine the (House) Ethics Committee will look into it, and it certainly sounds like they should,” said Donald Sherman, deputy director of the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, or CREW. ‘There’s clear violations here, and they certainly deserve to be examined.’” [Post Bulletin, 8/16/20]