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QUESTIONS EMERGE ON DAWSON HODGSON'S POTENTIAL ETHICS VIOLATIONS

Providence, RI—Today, the Rhode Island Democratic Party submitted a complaint to the Rhode Island Ethics Commission concerning State Senator Dawson T. Hodgson's failure to disclose important information on his financial disclosure statements as required by Rhode Island General Law § 36-14-16. Hodgson is currently opposing incumbent Attorney General Peter Kilmartin, but Hodgson's personal legal and ethical choices—even within just the last few years—paint an unsettling picture about the kind of Attorney General he would be.

Hodgson currently lists a one-third ownership in Slocum farmland on his 2013 ethics report, but this property only appeared on the amended version of his report, not the original, and he failed to disclose the farmland at all in 2012, when he bought or received parts of it as gifts. Of the multiple properties he co-owns and lists as "farmland", he's failed to disclose one of those properties as a residential property as required by Rhode Island law. The Rhode Island Democratic Party questions why Hodgson failed to disclose his property holdings in 2012 and why he amended his 2013 reports months after it being due.

Hodgson also failed to disclose his executive position as Director and Secretary of Sodco, Inc company in 2011 or 2012, despite annual reports by Sodco, Inc filed with the Secretary of State clearly indicating the positions Hodgson holds with the company.

"This makes you wonder what other information he's buried on the turf farm," said Joseph M. McNamara, speaking on behalf of the Rhode Island Democratic Party. "Dawson Hodgson's failures to disclose his property holdings and his executive positions with SODCO are unacceptable—especially for a public figure campaigning on establishing a unit dedicated to public integrity. We need an open, honest Attorney General dedicated to transparency—which we have in Peter Kilmartin—but that's not what we'll get with Hodgson."