

**U.S. Department of Justice***United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin**517 East Wisconsin Avenue**414 / 297-1700**Milwaukee, WI 53202*

June 22, 2007

News Release

In documents filed in federal court, Dennis M. Troha has agreed to plead guilty to two counts of conspiring to violate campaign finance laws and will cooperate in an ongoing investigation, U.S. Attorney Steven Biskupic and FBI Special Agent in Charge Richard Ruminski announced today.

According to the documents, Troha admits:

1. That between 2002 and 2007, he conspired to violate state and federal campaign contribution laws for the benefit of the campaigns involving the governor of the State of Wisconsin; and
2. That during the same time period, he conspired to violate federal campaign contribution limits for the benefit of the political campaigns of President George W. Bush.

The charges alleged that Troha improperly exceeded contribution limits by having family members make contributions in their own names, but using Troha's funds.

Troha faces a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment and a fine of \$200,000.

In exchange for the guilty pleas and cooperation, the government agreed to dismiss mail fraud and false statement charges pending against Troha.

The United States Attorney's Office consulted with state authorities in reaching the resolution, which includes an admission by Troha that his conduct violated state campaign finance laws as well. Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen and Dane County District Attorney Brian Blanchard agreed that the conspiracy charges would include a resolution of overlapping state violations by Troha.

"The conduct giving rise to the federal charges included acts that may violate state campaign finance laws," Wisconsin Attorney General Van Hollen said. "I, along with Dane County District Attorney Brian Blanchard, worked cooperatively to assist Mr. Biskupic in reaching a prompt resolution of this case. I will continue to work cooperatively with local and

federal authorities to ensure that the integrity of the political process is secure and that Wisconsin's laws are enforced."

Biskupic said, "The plea agreement is an appropriate middle ground resolution based on multiple factors, including: (a) Mr. Troha's clear admission of guilt; (b) the ramifications of the investigation and charges on Mr. Troha's business interests, including his casino venture; and, (c) Mr. Troha's agreement to cooperate with the FBI."

Biskupic also noted that information provided to the government on Troha's behalf by his attorney, Franklyn Gimbel, provided an additional basis for the plea agreement.

No court date has been set for the formal entry of the guilty plea.