

## Task Force Decries Hypocrisy of Senate Ethics Committee Investigation

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By Bob Roehr

They say that politics makes strange bedfellows, and that certainly is the case with the letter that the **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force** sent to the Senate Ethics Committee asking it to drop its investigation of the toe-tapping Sen, Larry Craig ( R-Idaho ) .

**“We are writing to object to the inherently contradictory and disparate treatment of allegations of ethical misconduct by Sens. Larry Craig and David Vitter,” executive director Matt Foreman wrote to Chairman Barbara Boxer ( D-California ) and Vice Chairman John Cornyn ( R-Texas ) on November 13.**

Foreman criticized the committee for opening an investigation into Craig’s guilty plea to a misdemeanor incident in a Minneapolis airport men’s room, now under appeal, while not investigating the multiple reports of Sen. David Vitter ( R-Louisiana ) engaging the services of prostitutes.

There is no explanation for the diametrically opposed responses to these two situations, other than hypocrisy tinged by homophobia,” Foreman wrote. “There are only two ways to resolve this: drop the investigation of Sen. Craig or investigate the allegations surrounding Sen. Vitter.”

The Committee jumped to investigate Craig as soon as news of the airport incident broke in the press in August. It has dragged its feet on investigating Vitter, despite his connection to alleged prostitution being known since July. Members of the committee have been tight-lipped about their activities.

But Vitter may not have that option; the Senator was served with a subpoena on November 13 by the so-called “DC Madam.” It requires him to testify at a hearing on November 28 about his admitted use of the escort service. Deborah Jeane Palfrey has maintained that the service she ran only engaged in legitimate business activities, not prostitution, and she seeking to have Vitter give his personal testimony to that effect.

It will be entertaining to see what the Senator says, and how the Ethics Committee handles that testimony.