The decision by a veteran Minnesota legislator’s intern to run against his boss, while still working for her, raised ethical questions from the campus of the University of Minnesota to the pages of The New York Times’ Sunday magazine.

Minnesota Rep. Phyllis Kahn doesn’t usually use an intern during legislative sessions.

“They’re more trouble than they are worth,” said Kahn, who has served in the Minnesota House for 30 years.

But in 2002, Kahn took on staff University of Minnesota student Jason Samuels, who Kahn described as a “self-starter.”

Kahn said she was aware that Samuels, who was the president of the campus National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws chapter, believed that the decriminalization of marijuana was the major public policy issue confronting Minnesota.

“I probably represent the most liberal district in the state. The university is in

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An intern’s wrong move

BY JACK PENCHOFF

To the editor:

Inclusion of state treasurers in the State Government News listing of 2003 State Executive Officials [January 2003 issue] was appreciated; however, there are several corrections and additions to the list that would make it a more comprehensive guide for those wanting information about the office of state treasurer.

The chart indicates that the Minnesota office of the treasurer is to be eliminated in 2003. That office has not been eliminated, but rather has been merged with the office of the state auditor. Also, below are corrections or additions to the original listing of 2003 state treasurers: Georgina K. Kawamura (Hawaii); Dale McCormick (Maine); Nancy Kopp (Maryland); Jay Rising (Michigan); Dan McElroy (Minnesota); Scott Darkenwald (Montana); Mike Ablowich (New Hampshire); John E. McCormack (New Jersey); Aida Brewer (New York); Jody Wagner (Virginia); and Yasela Pereira (Guam).

State treasurers are the trustees of the public purse and it is with those taxpayer funds that the nation’s state treasurers manage the money used to operate state governments and provide state services. It is with pride and the highest of ethical and professional standards that we serve in the interest of our states’ citizenry.

Hon. Brian K. Krolicki
Treasurer, State of Nevada
President, National Association of State Treasurers

The guide to elected state officials in the January edition of State Government News did not include elected auditors and controllers.

Nevada State Controller Kathy Augustine forwarded a list of those officials.

Augustine also pointed out a couple of errors in the list of treasurers that ran in January. In Florida, the offices of treasurer and comptroller have been combined into one position, chief financial officer.

Also, in Texas the office of treasurer has been abolished. Carole Keeton Strayhorn, listed as treasurer in the SGN list, is the comptroller.

The guide to elected officials would have been more comprehensive if it included elected state auditors and controllers. The following 33 officials are elected auditors and controllers as of January 2003:

- Alabama – State Auditor Beth Chapman
- Arkansas – Auditor of State Jim Wood
- California – State Controller Steve Westly
- Connecticut – Comptroller Nancy Wyman
- Delaware – Auditor of Accounts Thomas Wagner Jr.
- Idaho – State Controller Keith Johnson
- Illinois – State Comptroller Daniel W. Hynes
- Indiana – Auditor of State Connie Nass
- Iowa – Auditor of State Dave Vaught
- Kentucky – Auditor of Public Accounts Edward B. Hatcher Jr.
- Maryland – Comptroller of the Treasury Donald W. Schaefer
- Massachusetts – Auditor of the Commonwealth Joseph DiNucci
- Minnesota – State Auditor Pat Awada
- Mississippi – State Auditor Phil Bryant
- Missouri – State Auditor Claire McCaskill
- Montana – State Auditor John Morrison
- Nebraska – Auditor of Public Accounts Kate Witek
- Nevada – State Controller Kathy Augustine
- New Mexico – State Auditor Domingo Martinez
- New York – Comptroller Alan Hevesi
- North Carolina – State Auditor Ralph Campbell Jr.
- North Dakota – State Auditor Robert Peterson
- Ohio – Auditor of State Betty Montgomery
- Oklahoma – State Auditor and Inspector Jeff McMahan
- Pennsylvania – Auditor General Robert P. Casey Jr.
- South Carolina – Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom
- South Dakota – State Auditor Rich Satvig
- Texas – Comptroller of Public Accounts Carole Keeton Strayhorn
- Utah – State Auditor Auston G. Johnson
- Vermont – Auditor of Accounts Elizabeth Ready
- Washington – State Auditor Brian Sonntag
- West Virginia – State Auditor Glen B. Gaumer
- Wyoming – State Auditor Max Maxfield
landowner revenue from leasing rights for wind facilities, and increased property taxes on development and improvements made to the wind facility properties. In cases such as landowner leases, rural farming areas benefit heavily as farmers can lease out small tracts of land for the construction of wind facilities and, even after their construction, continue to farm right up to the base of the wind turbines with no ill effects.

Some of the other incentives provided on a state-specific basis to spur wind, and indeed all renewable energy growth, include production incentives by states such as Pennsylvania, California and Montana. States such as Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Rhode Island and Wisconsin provide state grant and loan programs. Other states, including Maryland, Ohio, Vermont, Washington, Florida, and Alaska provide state sales-tax exemptions for renewables. And, state income tax incentives, personal and corporate, are employed by several states such as California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Oregon, Utah, Montana and Maryland.

Therefore, recognizing that state policies toward wind and other forms of renewable energy will play as large or a larger part in future wind developments as those adopted by the federal government, many states are charging ahead to develop this unlimited resource.

— Barry Hopkins is the chief infrastructure policy analyst at The Council of State Governments.