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Senate Republicans Reject Governor's Appointees

CHARLESTON, West Virginia — West Virginia Republicans have rejected seven of Democratic Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's appointees, including prominent Democrats and labor leaders.

The Senate Confirmations Committee dropped them from consideration Wednesday, angering Democratic senators. Tomblin spokesman Chris Stadelman said the governor was disappointed.

State Democratic Party Chairwoman Belinda Biafore was rejected for the Women's Commission. GOP Senate President Bill Cole said many senators considered it inappropriate for a political party chairwoman to serve on a nonpartisan board.

Kenny Perdue, state AFL-CIO president, was rejected for the Workforce Investment Board.

Democrat Elaine Harris, independent Michael Smith and Republican Troy Giatras were rejected for the Public Employees Insurance Agency board.

James Frio was rejected for the Auctioneers Board and Athletic Commission.

Anna Dailey withdrew consideration for the State Personnel Board.

Cole said senators considered 454 nominations.