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February 15, 2013
For Immediate Release

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Capitol Protestor Jeremy Ryan Found Guilty of Disorderly Conduct for Disrupting Capitol Press Corps and Harassing Correspondent

Jeremy Ryan of Madison has been convicted of two counts of Disorderly Conducted by Dane County Judge Genovese. Yesterday, Ryan pled guilty and was convicted of two counts of Criminal Disorderly Conduct, which are Class B Misdemeanors.

Ryan was placed on the First Offenders program for these charges. As part of the court order, Ryan is prohibited from entering particular areas of the Capitol, including areas surrounding the Capitol Corp press room.

The Disorderly Conduct charges stem from Ryan's actions directed at Wheeler Report President Gwyn Guenther and members of the Capitol Press Corps. Specifically, Capitol Police investigations found that Ryan disturbed the work of the Capitol Press Corps by shouting insults directed at media outlets, and by singing songs about the death of Guenther's father, the late Dick Wheeler. Guenther reported to the police that she felt harassed by Ryan and the other protestors.

Several other charges were dismissed, but may be considered by the Court at future sentencing if Ryan fails to successfully complete the First Offender program. The additional misdemeanors include use of a computer to threaten to injure or physically harm property or a person, receipt of stolen property, criminal disorderly conduct, and a civil disorderly conduct charge.

Ryan has previously completed a First Offenders program stemming from 2007 charges for Criminal Damage to Property. Additionally, Ryan was convicted by a jury in a Dane County court last year of obstructing a police officer arising out of a protest in the Capitol Rotunda.

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