

March 22, 2014

Attn: Kimberly Westbrook Strach, Executive Director
North Carolina State Board of Elections
441 N. Harrington St.
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255

RE: Campaign contributions to organizations or networks related the
Speaker of The House Rep. Thom Tillis Mecklenburg in relation to
Board Appointments to the UNC Board of Governors.

Dear Ms Strach,

I am deeply concerned that open, honest, and good government may have been severely compromised in the North Carolina House of Representatives by its own leader and Speaker of The House, Rep. Thom Tillis from Mecklenburg.

According to several media reports that have been published in the Raleigh News and Observer, several board appointments to the UNC Board of Governors made in 2013 were made by the House under the recommendation of The Speaker of The House. These appointments have made substantial political campaign contributions to The Speaker and his campaign committees. According to one media report the spokesman for the Speaker in the past has stated that the practice,

“puts North Carolina government up for sale to the highest bidder.”

In the Speaker’s own words according to the report, **“I would estimate he is directly responsible for more than \$100,000.00 in financial support through personal contributions to my campaign committee and other candidates and through the Hospitality Alliance,”** Tillis wrote in a March 21 email to House leaders.

Another colleague in the House according to the report surrounding the incident put it this way.

“It sure sounds like a pay for play to me,” “It seems pretty blatant.”

I am asking that you immediately investigate and look more closely at this matter.

The people of North Carolina deserve the right to know how much money was involved surrounding these campaign contributions, the timing of when the money changed hands and if their was any relationship to any substative legislation passed or appointments

made to the UNC Board of Governors relating to campaign contributions, through which political conduit the campaign contributions passed, and if any laws were broken.

Additionally, I have transmitted similar communications to the state's Attorney General, and requesting that The House Standing Committee on Ethics review and further investigate the matters that surround these incidences.

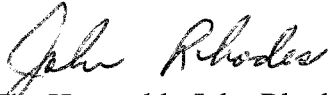
There seems to be many complex entities involved here and if we could just simply peel the onion to core and lay it all out for the people of North Carolina, it would be really helpful. The public really does have a right to know how money is intertwined and funneled through the political system and is there a relationship between political appointments and is there a price sheet relating to political appointments.

Simply put Ms. Strach, could you help the people of North Carolina know, is the North Carolina House of Representatives for sale to the highest bidder through the Speaker's office?

A further investigation from your office would help to provide sunshine and transparency relating to this serious matter.

Thank you for your help for all citizens of North Carolina. Should you need further on any communications in this letter, please call on me for clarification.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Rhodes".

The Honorable John Rhodes

Huntersville, N.C.

Source: Raleigh News and Observer July 26, 2013 Tillis pushed several major political contributors for UNC board, documents reveal.