

March 22, 2014

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Attorney General, State of North Carolina
9110 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 276999-9001

RE: UNC Board of Governor Appointments in relation to campaign contributions surrounding the Speaker of The House Rep. Thom Tillis Mecklenburg

Dear Mr. Cooper,

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.

Mr. Cooper, I love my state and perhaps one day aspire to serve on the UNC Board of Governors too, but just a regular citizen, I don’t have \$50, \$1,000, \$10,000 or much less \$100,000 to make in campaign contributions, it appears that my chances would not be that good to serve in that capacity.

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.”