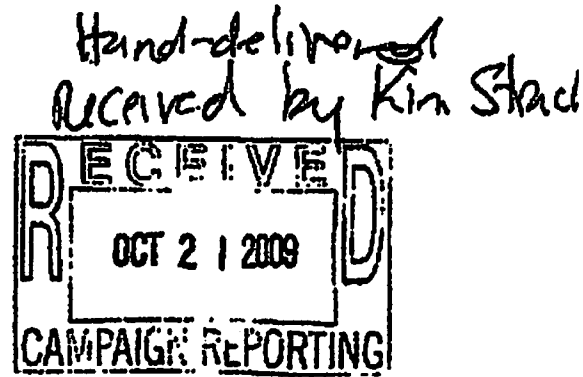


October 20, 2009



Mr. Gary O. Bartlett, Executive Director and
All Members of the Board
State Board of Elections
506 N. Harrington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Sirs:

With this letter, we hereby formally ask the State Board of Elections (hereafter the "SBOE") to require Chairman Larry Leake to recuse himself from all participation in the investigation of former Governor Mike Easley and call for his immediate resignation from the Board. Should Chairman Leake fail to promptly tender his resignation from the SBOE, we ask that you request the Governor act to remove him. Further, we request the Board use its statutory authority to fully investigate Mr. Leake's elections related activities while on the Board and take whatever actions are appropriate to regain public confidence in the elections process.

Past Conflict of Interest Violation

In November 2000, a complaint was filed with the State Board of Elections alleging Roy Cooper had violated the 1939 N.C. Corrupt Campaign Act in his campaign to become Attorney General. In December 2000 the documentation supporting the complaint was made available to the SBOE. Following a short hearing Chairman Leake wrote a dismissal of the complaint, apparently without ever disclosing to the other Board members that he was a very active supporter and fundraiser for the subject of the complaint.

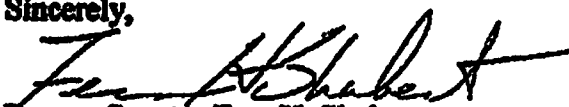
Permitting someone who was an active participant in a campaign to sit on a panel judging the legality of the campaign's activities is patently absurd. Regardless of the merits of the complaint, Chairman Leake's failure to disclose the conflict of interest and recuse himself is inexcusable.


Present Conflict of Interest Violation

According to numerous press reports, the SBOE is investigating former Governor Mike Easley for failure to properly disclose contributions associated with flights on private aircraft, including flights which might violate legal limitations on corporate contributions or exceed the per cycle limits on individual contributions. Since the earliest reported incidence of which we are aware of Mr. Easley using private aircraft for campaign travel was a flight to a fundraiser Mr. Leake arranged at his home which was reportedly furnished by a corporation, Phillips and Jordan, there is clearly a conflict of interest that should have been disclosed by Mr. Leake long ago.

Hearings are scheduled to begin Monday, October 26, 2009, and Mr. Leake has failed to recuse himself. Mr. Leake's failure to recuse himself in either case indicates a personal interest in the outcomes that is so great it appears to have clouded his legal judgment. We believe it is important that the hearings and investigation go forward, but we strongly believe Mr. Leake's continued involvement risks tainting the process.

Sincerely,


Former Senator Fern H. Shubert
106 E Main Street, Marshville, NC 28103
704-296-2175


Former Senator Hugh Webster
PO Box 1000, Yanceyville, NC 27379
336-514-6007