



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
LEGISLATIVE BUILDING  
RALEIGH 27601

February 1, 2019

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Governor Roy Cooper  
20301 Mail Services Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Governor Cooper,

We write in response to Ms. Kristi Jones' January 29, 2019 letter sent on your behalf. Thank you for saying that public employees are permitted to speak in open committee hearings. We expect public hearings on this matter will be necessary in the future.

In the meantime, we remain gravely concerned about your order prohibiting public employees from voluntarily speaking to independent investigators in a forum of the employee's choosing as part of the legislature's oversight investigation into your administration.

It is perplexing that, after insisting for months that this oversight investigation was too political, you now consider the investigation to be too independent. The ranking Democrat on the subcommittee overseeing this investigation sat in on the interviews with independent investigators and agreed that the three decorated career federal law enforcement agents we chose were the best option. Every member of the subcommittee heard from the independent investigators before they were hired. Nobody expressed any concern whatsoever about their distinguished law enforcement careers investigating public corruption, terrorism, and drug cartels – except of course for you, the subject of the investigation.

As you must know, the documents you provided to the legislature appear to reveal that your business partner asked you to personally intervene with Duke Energy on a matter impacting his solar company profits that is unrelated to the ACP. You allegedly then met one-on-one with Duke Energy CEO Lynn Good and discussed your business partner's request and the ACP permit. Several weeks later, as alleged, when your General Counsel informed you that he intended to sign a critical document related to the ACP, you asked, "Where are the solar boys on their deal?" The deal with the solar boys was not yet

complete. Finally, it also appears that the critical ACP agreement and the permit were delayed for weeks until the solar deal providing your business partner with increased profits was on more certain footing because of your intervention.

The independent oversight investigators have and will continue to review documents, data, and other information, as well as interview people both inside government and outside of government, about your administration's actions.

Public hearings will likely be appropriate, but we will not alter the independent investigation simply because the subject of this investigation wants to dictate the terms of how it proceeds.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Harry Brown

  
Representative Dean Arp