



Office of the Speaker
North Carolina House of Representatives
Raleigh, N.C. 27601-1096

November 16, 2011

THOM TILLIS
SPEAKER

The Honorable Joe Hackney
North Carolina General Assembly
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-5925

Dear Representative Hackney:

I have received your request for an investigation into the private business activities of Representative Stephen LaRoque.

Just as you did during your tenure as Speaker, I have deep and solemn respect for the integrity of the House of Representatives as an institution. However, as you are keenly aware, the General Assembly has established a thorough and duly constituted process to safeguard that integrity while reviewing such matters. That process seeks to ascertain the validity of accusations by one member against another and to determine which claims are driven by ulterior motives or pure political gamesmanship.

The appropriate body for review of these matters is the bipartisan Legislative Ethics Committee (LEC). Therefore, upon immediate receipt of your letter, I have proceeded simultaneously on two fronts. First, I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the LEC so that it may initiate consultation with you in its discretion. Second, I advise you to consult with the LEC on your own so that it may determine, in its discretion, whether legitimate grounds exist to proceed with an investigation.

Finally, I would respectfully request that you provide the LEC with more specificity regarding the allegation, including without limitation any matters of which you have personal or actual knowledge. Doubtless, if more specific or actual knowledge exists, it will prove critical to the LEC's work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Thom Tillis'.

Thom Tillis

cc: The Honorable Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr.

The Honorable Paul Stam

The Honorable Phil Berger

The Honorable Stephen LaRoque