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The Honorable Thom Tillis
Speaker of the House
North Carolina General Assembly
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

*Via Electronic Mail
Thom.Tillis@ncleg.net

Dear Speaker Tillis:

My firm represents Representative Stephen LaRoque. I have been made privy to a letter from the Minority Leader Joe Hackney calling for you to convene a bipartisan commission to independently review matters that have been presented in the media by North Carolina Policy Watch. Mr. Hackney states that these media reports raise questions about Rep. LaRoque's business practices and then makes an allegation that the media reports "appear to point to a pattern of violating several guidelines for nonprofits" as well as the USDA's rules for their loan programs. On behalf of Rep. LaRoque, we ask you not to take what could certainly be thought of as partisan political bait.

The mere existence of media reports "appearing" to say something falls far below any standard for convening special investigatory commissions. If we as a society begin to appoint "independent commissions" to investigate "media" accounts of politicians, there will be no end to these commission hearings. Such a hearing would set a precedent for further politicizing the government ethics process, would waste taxpayer money that should go to more important state endeavors, and will run rough shod over the presumption of innocence. Based on the recent media reporting of "political investigations" regarding members of Mr. Hackney's own party, we can have no comfort that such a political investigation will not create a destructive media circus with no checks on the truth.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

CHESHIRE PARKER SCHNEIDER &
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Cc: Minority Leader Joe Hackney (via e-mail to joe.hackney@ncleg.net)