

# The Republican Caucus

**Bruce W. Bannister**  
*Majority Leader*

**J. Gary Simrill**  
*Asst. Majority Leader*

**Charles M. Cannon**  
*Executive Director*



## House of Representatives State of South Carolina

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September 22, 2016

Dear Caucus Members:

Over the past several days there have been multiple media reports, both in the mainstream media and in alternative media, concerning the ongoing Statewide Grand Jury Investigation being conducted by Solicitor David Pascoe. Many of these reports contain erroneous information. This letter is to advise you of what the Caucus leadership knows at this time and to set the record straight.

First and foremost, there is an ongoing investigation by an empaneled Statewide Grand Jury that may concern the activities of members of the South Carolina House of Representatives as well as members of the House Republican Caucus. The scope and the subject of this investigation are unknown to us at this point.

Second, the Caucus has been asked to make available to investigators its financial records. The Caucus has allowed investigators access to all of its financial records dating back to 1995 and will continue to comply with requests for copies and access to those records throughout the remainder of this investigation. We have no reason to believe that the Caucus has acted in violation of any portion of the Ethics Act, nor that these records will indicate that any member of the Caucus is in violation of the Ethics Act. In short, the Caucus has nothing to hide from law enforcement.

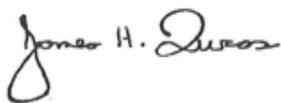
Third, private, outside counsel has been retained to represent the Caucus in this matter. This counsel was primarily retained to secure, catalogue and monitor the financial records of the Caucus. An individual was hired when it became clear that the Caucus would need to make those records available as part of this investigation. Mr. Bill Nettles IS NOT that counsel. As of the writing of this letter, the Caucus Executive Committee has not authorized Mr. Nettles' retention and we refute his public claims that he is in association with the Caucus.

Finally, we want to express that we have carefully considered every course of action taken by the Caucus to this point. To incorporate more perspective and legal knowledge, additional

Caucus members were selected to assist with decision-making to ensure the protection of every single member. Our deliberations have been focused on not only protecting the integrity of the Caucus, but also of the House of Representatives as an Institution. We do not believe that it is appropriate for the Caucus to be anything less than forthcoming with an ongoing investigation by appropriate law enforcement.

Unfortunately, there is no more substantial information that we can share with each of you at this time. The truth is that we simply do not know more than what is contained in this letter. As more information becomes available we will make every effort to share it with each of you as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Jay Lucas  
Speaker of the House

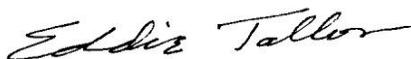
Bruce Bannister  
Majority Leader



Gary Simrill  
Asst Majority Leader



Tommy Pope  
Speaker Pro Tempore



Eddie Tallon  
Chief Whip



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Finance Chair



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