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04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

*Hand Delivery*

October 5, 2015

Beth Ashcroft, Director  
Office of Program Evaluation and  
Government Accountability  
82 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0082

Dear Beth:

The Governor's Office received the Government Oversight Committee's (GOC's) invitation for Aaron Chadbourne and me to appear before the GOC on October 15, 2015. As you know, the situation about which the GOC members wish to question us is the subject matter of a federal lawsuit against the Governor. Consequently, we must respectfully decline the GOC's invitation.

I have reviewed the OPEGA report several times, however, and it seems clear from the information you've gathered, that Good-Will Hinckley (GWH) ultimately decided to terminate the Speaker's employment because of the concerns expressed by the Harold Alfond Foundation (HAF) Board Chair, not because of the Governor's objections. According to your report, the Governor learned on June 5, 2015 that GWH was "leaning towards selecting" the Speaker as its president.<sup>1</sup> The report also indicates the Governor called the GWH Interim President and expressed his displeasure with the choice.<sup>2</sup> According to the report, while the GWH President indicated there was no threat regarding state funding for GWH, the GWH lobbyist thought there was.<sup>3</sup> In either case, your report indicates GWH hired the Speaker anyway.<sup>4</sup>

The report further says that the Governor sent his June 8<sup>th</sup> letter to GWH expressing his objections to the Speaker as President of GWH.<sup>5</sup> The next day, after GWH had received the Governor's letter, it announced publically that it had hired the Speaker.<sup>6</sup> The report also indicates that GWH's decision to hire the Speaker despite the Governor's objections is consistent with the GWH Director of Finance's opinion that, should there be a loss of the discretionary state funding, it would have no significant impact on GWH.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> page 12, ¶1

<sup>2</sup> page 12, last bullet

<sup>3</sup> page 12, last bullet

<sup>4</sup> page 13, 4<sup>th</sup> bullet

<sup>5</sup> page 15, ¶2

<sup>6</sup> page 15, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bullets

<sup>7</sup> page 17, 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet



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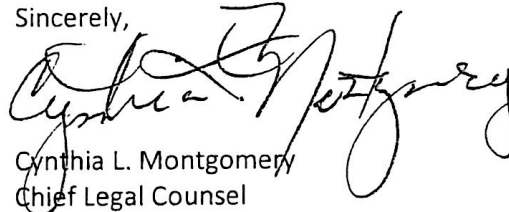
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Finally, the report shows that it was not until June 18 when the HAF Board Chair expressed concern in a letter to GWH over the loss of the discretionary funding that GWH began to seriously reconsider its choice.<sup>8</sup> The report further makes clear that no one in the Governor's office, including the Governor himself, had anything to do with HAF's decision-making in this regard.<sup>9</sup>

I highlight these facts to show that Mr. Chadbourne's and my absence from the October 15<sup>th</sup> GOC meeting will likely have a minimal impact on the GOC's ability to wrap up its inquiry. In the spirit of cooperation, however, if the GOC has specific questions it will present to us in writing, as is a common practice of this Administration, we are willing with the assistance of counsel to attempt to answer them.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Cynthia L. Montgomery  
Chief Legal Counsel

cc: Aaron Chadbourne  
Patrick Strawbridge, Esq.

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<sup>8</sup> pages 17-19

<sup>9</sup> page 13, last bullet; page 15, ¶14, and pages 17-19