



State of North Carolina

Department of Justice
PO Box 629
Raleigh, North Carolina
27602

June 22, 2009

ROY COOPER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Hon. Phil Berger
N. C. General Assembly
16 W. Jones Street
Raleigh, N. C. 27602

Dear Senator Berger:

This letter is to inform you that Attorney General Cooper earlier this year directed the State Bureau of Investigation to investigate matters related to the former Governor and other issues. Our agents have been working with the U. S. Attorney's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Attorney General Cooper believes that investigations of public officials are serious matters which require diligent and impartial analysis, which is why he does not comment on current investigations.

Although he has directed the SBI to investigate, you should know that the authority to request a special prosecutor lies with the district attorney where the incidents occurred.

Your June 17, 2009 letter cites "North Carolina's recent history of public corruption." You should be aware that our SBI, along with state prosecutors, brought numerous high profile public officials to justice. Since 2001, Attorney General Cooper's SBI and special prosecutors have investigated more than 500 public officials, including Council of State members, state legislators, a member of Congress, sheriffs, local government officials and others.

The Attorney General has long advocated better ways to enhance state prosecutors' authority to conduct public corruption investigations. Unfortunately a proposal to authorize use of investigative grand juries- like the federal government finds necessary to use in the matters you reference - was amended out of Senate Bill 132 by Sen. Apodaca last session.

You are invited to contact me or Senior Deputy in charge of Special Prosecutions, Jim Coman, at any time regarding this or other matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristi Hyman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristi Hyman
Chief of Staff

KH/sm