



North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE JAKE JOHNSON, CO-CHAIR
DISTRICT 113

REPRESENTATIVE HARRY WARREN, CO-CHAIR
DISTRICT 76

April 15, 2023

Kristi Jones
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Ms. Jones:

We are disappointed to receive your letter yesterday that would delay a full accounting of your meetings with SBI Director Schurmeier. The only obligation with a legislative committee hearing is for the witness to appear and provide truthful testimony.

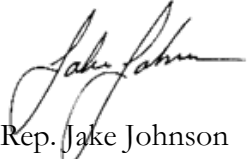
Under N.C. Gen. Stat. §120-14, the committee has “full power to send for persons and papers, and, if necessary, to compel attendance...” Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §120-19.4 your refusal to appear before the committee until we obtain a written waiver from Director Schurmeier is potentially grounds for contempt. As you noted in your letter, the committee respected his decision not to answer some questions due to confidentiality requirements.

The substance of the conversations between Director Schurmeier and the Governor’s staff are not privileged, and it is not necessary to delve into the details of confidential personnel matters to get to the heart of the issue here. This is about the basis for the Governor’s Administration to insert itself into the managerial decisions of an independent law enforcement agency and to threaten the head of that agency with an investigation for which he would have to pay.

Staff first contacted you and Mr. Fletcher on March 31 to speak with them. After an initial acknowledgement of the email, your next response came in an open letter a day after staff followed up. The email chain is attached as a reminder. You then took more than 97 hours to respond to our April 10 invitation for you to testify before the committee. You are welcome to seek a waiver on your own from the SBI Director. Whether you obtain one or not does not absolve you or Mr. Fletcher of your obligation under law to appear and truthfully testify before this committee. We simply look for you and Mr. Fletcher to appear before the committee in the interest of transparency and accountability.

We hope you will take the necessary steps to be able to provide the testimony you would like. We look forward to seeing you Tuesday at 3:00.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jake Johnson".

Rep. Jake Johnson
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Warren".

Rep. Harry Warren
Co-Chair

attachments