

IOWA ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

An Independent Agency of the Executive Branch

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December 18, 2013

State Government Efficiency Review Committee
Attention: Ed Cook
State Capitol - Legislative Services Agency
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Mr. Cook:

On November 6th, I received a memo from the State Government Efficiency Review Committee requesting input for ideas on how to reduce costs and increase efficiency in state government. Specifically, the memo directed me to seek input from my employees. I directed my employees to the committee's public comment internet site and asked them to submit any suggestions they may have.

I have one suggestion of my own: the Ethics Board is responsible for auditing all campaign disclosure reports. Currently Iowa law requires most campaign committees to file their reports using the Board's electronic filing system. Our smallest committees may still file paper reports. Having a mix of paper and electronic reports requires us to have two systems—one for paper reports and one for electronic reports—to track our committees' filings. This duplication takes a lot of time on our end to manage. This time would be better spent auditing reports and educating committees on Iowa's campaign finance laws. I suggest that all campaign committees be required to electronically file their reports. The Board is proposing legislation that would require all campaign disclosure reports to be filed electronically by January 1, 2015.

Finally, the November 6th memo asked agency heads to review and offer recommendations to the State Government Efficiency Review Committee regarding the possible consolidation or elimination of boards and commissions within the purview of the agency. The Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board does not have any boards or commissions within its purview. The Board itself is an independent state agency which was established to create separation between the elected officials in the executive branch and the agency responsible for enforcing Iowa's

government ethics laws. The Board, rather than the Governor, appoints its Director and oversees the operation of the agency to ensure Iowa's government ethics laws are enforced fearlessly and impartially. I do not believe the Board could be consolidated or eliminated without seriously compromising its important mission.

Please contact me if you or the Committee wish to further discuss these matters.

Sincerely,

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

Megan Tooker
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