



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

November 24, 2009

Delivered Electronically

Dear Mr. Sinsheimer,

Thank you for your correspondence and for all of your work to hold government officials accountable for their actions. I strongly agree with you that we must take significant steps to restore confidence in state government.

In my inaugural speech, I stated, "Government must be more accountable to the people. The state's business must be conducted in the sunshine, to inspire confidence, not cynicism."

And from day one of my administration I have taken steps to achieve that goal, including signing a series of executive orders on my first day in office to transform the way the Department of Transportation does business and to put information about all state grants and contracts on the web in a searchable database. Since that time, I have extended the state's gift ban to all executive branch employees and vetoed legislation that would have required currently public records to become private. Additionally, my administration has made public hundreds of previously unreleased documents and strengthened North Carolina's public records policies regarding state email retention.

But these are only first steps, as much more needs to be done to fully restore confidence in state government. My administration is already working on several steps that can be taken either through executive order or legislation that would address some of the concerns you raised in your letter as well as other challenges we face to ensure our government is held to the highest ethical standards.

Like all of us who have the honor of serving in government, those who serve on state boards and committees must be held to high standards. My staff and I had already begun work on a series of executive orders to raise the ethical standards of those who receive such appointments. Among other measures, my staff is exploring policies to remove any gubernatorial appointee who is indicted or who fails to cooperate with an investigation.



Regarding your second point, I have previously appointed an outside commission consisting of three of the most distinguished retired lawyers in North Carolina. I have asked them to address this issue and to make specific recommendations. The investigation is not yet complete but they will be reporting to me soon. I have previously announced my commitment to making the results of that investigation public.

Finally, I have forwarded your letter to the State Bureau of Investigation to determine whether an investigation into the permitting issue you mentioned is appropriate.

Thank you again for your letter and for your commitment to reforming North Carolina government. I remain committed to making sure our government operates with the highest standards of ethics and transparency, and appreciate your efforts on behalf of those principles. The citizens of North Carolina expect and deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bev Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bev Perdue