

From: Ed DeVilbiss
Sent: 10/7/2014 8:44:55 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Fwd: Yesterday's resignation, tomorrow's testimony

Friends in SC,

This effort to clean up our political system in South Carolina is not happening by magic. It is happening because conservative citizens have gotten behind the South Carolina Policy Council to support our legislators that are interested in having the freest state in the Nation. If you are not connected with this group, I urge you to do so, As a citizen I may not have the power to change Washington, but we do have the power to change our State and local government. If all the states do this we will get our country back from the ground up rather than the top down.

I will be hunting birds with our dogs for the rest of the month in Minnesota. Hope you are enjoying the Fall. ED

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ashley Landess** <ashleyl@scpolicycouncil.org
<<mailto:ashleyl@scpolicycouncil.org>>>
Date: Tue, Oct 7, 2014 at 1:42 PM
Subject: Yesterday's resignation, tomorrow's testimony
To: Ed Devilbiss <eddevilbiss@gmail.com <<mailto:eddevilbiss@gmail.com>>>

<<http://scpolicycouncil.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=90f4d72dbc04b9503f9c911dc&id=b0e19ef696&e=b9d5cf75a9>>
[View this email in your browser <http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=90f4d72dbc04b9503f9c911dc&id=dc1e4b9d7e&e=b9d5cf75a9>](http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=90f4d72dbc04b9503f9c911dc&id=dc1e4b9d7e&e=b9d5cf75a9)
<<http://scpolicycouncil.us2.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=90f4d72dbc04b9503f9c911dc&id=27537edc70&e=b9d5cf75a9>>
Hi Ed,

When Bobby Harrell was indicted and suspended last month, we suspected – and hoped – that it was just the beginning of the changes we'd see. ***It turns out we were right.***

Yesterday we got news <<http://scpolicycouncil.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=90f4d72dbc04b9503f9c911dc&id=957ae2e2a1&e=b9d5cf75a9>> that the suspended Speaker's brother, John Harrell, is stepping down from the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, the powerful state panel that decides which candidates the legislature will appoint as judges. In the complaint we brought to the Attorney General last year, we argued that the appointment of Harrell to the Commission was a flagrant violation of the state's law
<<http://scpolicycouncil.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=>

90f4d72dbc04b9503f9c911dc&id=830ad30ac8&e=b9d5cf75a9> against nepotism. Whether John Harrell voluntarily stepped down or was urged to by lawmakers, we don't know – but the message is getting through.

And the message is this: that the way the state constitution gives the legislature unilateral control over the judicial branch is a recipe for corruption.

If anyone thought we were exaggerating, take a look at the news <<http://scpolicycouncil.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=90f4d72dbc04b9503f9c911dc&id=28020703d0&e=b9d5cf75a9>> from over the weekend. The FBI and SLED are investigating what seems to be evidence of "vote swapping" in the contentious reelection of Chief Justice Jean Toal. We don't know what the outcome of that investigation will be, but – as we've contended <<http://scpolicycouncil.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=90f4d72dbc04b9503f9c911dc&id=fa630da862&e=b9d5cf75a9>> for more than two years now – giving lawmakers unilateral power to appoint judges is guaranteed to generate corruption.

NOW is the time to hammer that point home, and that's what I'll be doing **tomorrow at 1:30 in Room 516 of the Blatt Building**, on the State House Grounds. The acting Speaker of the House, Rep. Jay Lucas, has appointed three committees to recommend reforms. Will lawmakers use these committees to give the impression that they're serious about dismantling a system based on secrecy and concentrated power? I don't know, but I doubt anybody needs a committee's recommendations to figure out what needs to be done. So I'm going to explain as plainly as I can what citizens rightfully expect them to do going forward.

If you can join us, we'd love to see you there. Your presence made THE difference when 200 of you showed up at the Supreme Court hearing last summer. If you can't make it, we'll be publishing a few short pieces on how the last Speaker was able to run state government – and why the problem of secrecy and concentrated power goes much deeper than the powers exercised by one public official.

Thank you again for all you do. YOUR SUPPORT has made all this possible. I hope you're as proud as we are of what's been accomplished so far – and as eager as we are to see what happens next!

All the best,

<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/90f4d72dbc04b9503f9c911dc/images/ealsig.jpg>
<g>

E. Ashley Landess, President
South Carolina Policy Council
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