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Subject: Ethic Event in MB

We heard from Senator Rankin this morning that he may attend the Ethics Reform press conference in Myrtle Beach today – he is in a mediation hearing and may not get out in time but will try to be there.

Background on Rankin regarding Ethics:

- Serves as the Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee;
- Served as Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics Reform appointed by Courson;
- His position on Ethics Reform:
 - He has repeatedly made these types of comments in hearings and on the floor: “Ethics may be a problem in other branches (House and Executive Branch), but not the Senate. How we handled the Sen. Ford case shows that we are doing things right.”
 - He is opposed to an independent ethics commission that investigates the Legislature. He talked for 1 hour on the Senate Floor against H.3945 mainly talking about the Sen. Ford case.
 - He supports adding False Claims Act to H. 3945.
 - He believes more random audits and possibly requiring public officials to provide bank statements to verify proper expenditures is a better solution. (Note: McMaster-Medlock also recommended random audits)

Suggested Talking Points if Rankin attends:

- No one has vetted these issues more than Senator Rankin. Every group that has come before him in the numerous hearings he has held, has supported the McMaster-Medlock proposal – including an independent ethics commission. These groups and the citizens of Horry County understand very well that the fox should not be guarding the hen house.
- We have strong support from Republican Senators on the need for an independent ethics commission, I hope we will have that support from Sen. Rankin as well.
- I look forward to his leadership on the floor of the Senate to vote for H. 3945 and prevent this bill from being watered down or given a poison pill amendment. I look forward to celebrating this historic reform with him when this bill gets to my desk.

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