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**Subject:** Statement from Speaker Harrell

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House Speaker Bobby Harrell issued the following statement:

“We are disappointed with the court’s ruling but in no way did the court take exception to our original contention that another prosecutor should take over this case because of the Attorney General’s inappropriate conduct.

“It was Judge Manning, not my attorneys, who brought up the jurisdictional issue in this case. The only thing we originally asked the court was for a fair and impartial prosecutor to be put in charge of this matter. As Supreme Court Justices clearly pointed out at the hearing, the Attorney General has improperly handled this case from the beginning.

“As the Circuit Court ruling stated, after more than a year of investigations the Attorney General was still pursuing this case even though he could not point to a single shred of evidence of criminal wrongdoing. Clearly the Attorney General’s motivations have been corrupted by political motives and that is why he needs to be replaced with a fair and impartial prosecutor.”

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