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REPRESENTATIVE WM. WESTON J. NEWTON
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
District No. 120 - Beaufort and Jasper Counties

COMMITTEES:
Judiciary
Legislative Oversight, Chairman

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION OFFICES:
Beaufort: (843) 255-2260 Fax: (843) 255-9425
Jasper: (843) 726-6019 Fax: (843) 726-5068

November 15, 2017

Via Hand Delivery
The Honorable Henry D. McMaster
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re: No confidence in Director of the Department of Public Safety

Dear Governor McMaster:

As members of the House of Representatives Legislative Oversight Committee, we respectfully request you seek the resignation of the Director of the Department of Public Safety and, failing such resignation, review the statutory provisions for removal of the Director from office.

Previously, members of the House of Representatives, and the House Legislative Oversight Subcommittee studying the agency, advanced their concerns about the effectiveness of the Director and his ability to lead the Department of Public Safety. These concerns are magnified by (1) the report of the State Inspector General which revealed less than one in three sworn officers have trust and confidence in agency leadership or believe senior executives maintain high standards of honesty and integrity; and (2) the compelling testimony at Monday's Committee meeting of a Sergeant at the agency, who is a retiree of the National Guard and a combat war veteran with 28 years of experience on the South Carolina Highway Patrol. In tendering his resignation, the Sergeant directly spoke to how the lack of executive leadership at the Department of Public Safety, and resulting low morale, impede trooper effectiveness and threaten the safety of the public and the troopers.

When the climate at the Department of Public Safety is such that its mission is compromised as a consequence of the failure of leadership, change is needed. We have no confidence in the Director of the Department of Public Safety and believe the citizens of our great state, and the dedicated men and women of the Highway Patrol, deserve better.

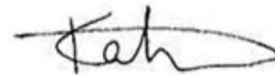
Sincerely,



Wm. Weston J. Newton,
Chair of House Legislative
Oversight Committee
House District 120 -
Beaufort & Jasper Counties



Laurie Slade Funderburk,
Vice-Chair of House Legislative
Oversight Committee
House District 52 -
Kershaw County



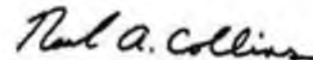
Katherine E. Arrington
House District 94 -
Charleston & Dorchester
Counties



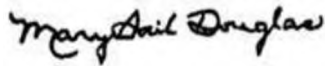
Bruce W. Bannister
House District 24 -
Greenville County



Gary E. Clary
House District 3 -
Pickens County



Neal A. Collins
House District 5 -
Pickens County



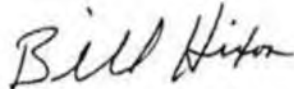
MaryGail K. Douglas
House District 41 -
Chester, Fairfield & Richland
Counties



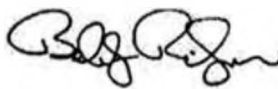
Raye Felder
House District 26 -
York County



Phyllis J. Henderson
House District 21 -
Greenville County



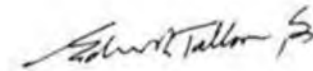
William M. Hixon
House District 83 -
Aiken & Edgefield Counties



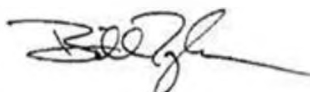
Robert I. Ridgeway, III
House District 64 -
Clarendon & Sumter Counties



J. Todd Rutherford
House District 74 -
Richland County



Edward R. Tallon, Sr.
House District 33 -
Spartanburg County



Bill Taylor
House District 86 -
Aiken County