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June 11, 2007

Governor Ted Kulongoski  
The Oregon Senate and House of Representatives  
Attorney General Hardy Myers  
The Government Standards and Practices Commission

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am writing – unbidden - on behalf of the Government Standards and Practices Commission, and their staff and investigators. As many of you know, I have been involved in a long, drawn-out battle against what I have long believed to be corruption and dishonesty in the City of Toledo (and elsewhere in Lincoln County). That struggle has cost me dearly, but it has, in the past year or so, borne much fruit. That it has done so is due in large part to the diligence and courage of the staff and investigators of the Government Standards and Practices Commission.

Now, in point of fact, it was not I who brought the case of former Toledo Chief of Police Don Dennison, nor that of now deceased Mayor Sharon Branstiter to the GSPC. (Both to the best of knowledge I filed false Federal Charges on ME, Prof a US Inspector General Report that is on record in committee hearing) However, it is fair to say that without the work I have done over the previous several years, it is unlikely these cases would ever have materialized. So it is as a knowledgeable party, as well as an interested one, that I write this letter.

Former Toledo Police Dennison is no longer a police officer, last known whereabouts in Iraq teaching Iraqis about the fair, competent and impartial administration of justice and law and order. The GSPC found him guilty of 21 of 22 originally alleged charges of conflict of interest, breach of duty, dishonest dealings & etc. Former Mayor Branstiter, God rest her soul, was not brought to justice before her passing, as the commission divided on the issues of her questioned activities and did not convict. Be that as it may, Sharon knew she was facing the bar of justice and by all appearances was worried and afraid because of this. It is fair to say that this was itself a form of justice, and we may hope that it led her to deal with the ethical issues of her life before she went to meet her maker. What is not open to question is the fact that the City of Toledo and the residents of the town are far better off because of the activities of the GSPC. Without it, the City would still be mired in a morass of criminal and questionable behaviors by its elected and appointed leaders. The process of justice is still going on in the town, and I hope it will bring to justice other leaders whose activities citizens have, in my view quite rightly, been questioned. Many of Toledo's citizens who were before afraid to speak out now tell me how thankful they are for the work I, and others, and the GSPC have done. When corruption and deceit are deeply entrenched, it can be rooted out only by a combination of courageous local folk who are willing to challenge the powerful AND an agency like the GSPC which has the authority to pursue and investigate the allegations those citizens bring and can do so (unlike those citizens) without fear of political, legal, or physical assault for doing so.

It is for this reason that I urge the many branches of the State of Oregon to come together and support adequate staffing and adequate financing for the GSPC. I have no doubt that others – some with good motives, some maybe hoping to maintain the cover needed for illegal or unethical activities by themselves or their friends – want to see the GSPC budget shrink and shrink. I urge the opposite; GSPC is already down to a skeleton staff, and needs to see its budget and its staff increased. I urge you to provide funding to GSPC to hire at least seven more staff investigators.

I realize that there are many other needs, agencies and public issues that call out for further funding, and that while the funds are limited, the sum total of those calls is virtually unlimited. Nonetheless, I cannot think of another agency or public function where the addition of so small an additional number of staff could do so much good. Seven additional police officers would hardly make a dent in crime in Portland, Salem, the Willamette Valley, Eastern Oregon or any other part of our great state; seven new teachers would be a drop in the bucket compared to the number of additional teachers that educators and their administrators call for. Yet seven more GSPC investigators would be a huge additional force for justice and against corruption. Most of you know I have not been a big fan of either the expansion of government power or expanded roles for most public employees or taking our rights away as Americans(The Employer of our Government). However, I support expansion of the GSPC's power and its role, as well as its ability to carry out its duties. Perhaps a century from now, it will have grown over-powerful and a new generation of reformers will have to cut it down to size. In the present, and for the foreseeable future, that is not a worry. The worry, rather, is that the GSPC is being financially emasculated, cut and chopped to the point where it can barely do its job. That job is critical to the honest functioning of a Republic(As stated in our treaty 1846), and to the public belief in that democracy, and it can be salvaged and strengthened hugely by a tiny budgetary increase.

I also urge you to broaden the jurisdiction of the GSPC so it can, once an initiative has been begun via a complaint, consider (to the extent it may now not be able to do so or is constrained in doing so) evidence of additional misbehavior's by political officials(Elected and Public Employees). I also urge legislation or agency rules, as might be needed, to enable GSPC to bring cases to the Attorney Generals office (again, to such extent as it may now not be able to do so or is constrained from doing so), if and when it needs additional fire power in its investigations.

If Not we will Become living under a Dictatorship None of us would enjoy or want The lost of our FREEDOM,

Instead of Freedom of the BIRTHRIGHT of two are more GENERATIONS in the USA  
.GUARANTEED to us BY the United States and Oregon Constitutions.

Sincerely  
Edward Johnston

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