FILE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOB RILEY
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STATE OF ALABAMA

March 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcel Black, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
Alabama House of Representatives
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Representative Black:

As we move forward in the 2009 Regular Session, I respectfully request your prompt consideration of HB 594, by Rep. Mac Gipson, which is currently assigned to your committee.

The Alabama Code of Public Ethics bill is extremely important to rebuilding the people's trust in government and their elected officials. Like the current Ethics Code, the new Code of Public Ethics would apply equally to all public officials and employees of every branch of state and local government. It holds all of us accountable to the people we serve. The new Code of Public Ethics is built around the following principles:

- Public officials and employees are public *servants*.
- In order to be accountable to the people, government must be totally transparent and open.
- Sound, effective ethics rules and standards *prevent* conflicts of interest, as well as the *appearance* of conflicts of interest.
- An independent Ethics Commission should be empowered and equipped to enforce the ethics laws.

When it comes to attracting new jobs to the State, the integrity of state government can be a critical factor. That's another reason why elected officials must be accountable. The process of government policy-making must be transparent, and state government must operate "above board" in every instance.

Thank you in advance for your committee's consideration of HB 594. I look forward to working with you and your committee to help this bill become law.

Sincerely,

Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama

BR/ps/rs

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March 2, 2009

The Honorable Quinton Ross, Chairman
Senate Constitution, Campaign Finance,
Ethics and Elections Committee
Alabama State Senate
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Senator Ross:

As we move forward in the 2009 Regular Session, I respectfully request your prompt consideration of SB 440, by Sen. Ben Brooks, which is currently assigned to your committee.

The Alabama Code of Public Ethics bill is extremely important to rebuilding the people's trust in government and their elected officials. Like the current Ethics Code, the new Code of Public Ethics would apply equally to all public officials and employees of every branch of state and local government. It holds all of us accountable to the people we serve. The new Code of Public Ethics is built around the following principles:

- Public officials and employees are public *servants*.
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- An independent Ethics Commission should be empowered and equipped to enforce the ethics laws.

When it comes to attracting new jobs to the State, the integrity of state government can be a critical factor. That's another reason why elected officials must be accountable. The process of government policy-making must be transparent, and state government must operate "above board" in every instance.

Thank you in advance for your committee's consideration of SB 440. I look forward to working with you and your committee to help this bill become law.

Sincerely,

Bob Riley

Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama

BR/ps/rs