



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

William C. McKinney  
General Counsel

December 13, 2017

**Via Hand-Delivery**

The Honorable Bill Rabon  
The Honorable Warren Daniel  
The Honorable Dan Bishop  
Senate Chamber  
North Carolina General Assembly  
State Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Senators Rabon, Daniel, and Bishop:

This letter is in response to your letter dated yesterday, December 12, 2017, inviting participation from a representative of the Governor to attend the Senate Select Committee on Judicial Redistricting and Reform and offer comments for the meeting scheduled for later today.

As you all note in the letter, matters regarding the administration of justice and the process of electing judges are important to all North Carolinians and should include officials from each branch of government. In keeping with the spirit of the needs of such a conversation, the Governor has asked the Honorable Don Stephens, retired Chief Resident Superior Court Judge from Wake County, to speak to the Committee on his behalf at the meeting later today.

Since leaving the bench at the end of October 2017, Judge Stephens has been a helpful voice in discussing the status of the judiciary and potential reform efforts with the Governor. His experience in Wake County Superior Court as a trial judge gives him an important voice in how trial judges apply the law. Moreover, Judge Stephens is well suited to discuss the Governor's perspective on judicial selection and the need to maintain an independent and non-partisan judiciary.

Judge Stephens will be at the Select Committee meeting at 1:00pm and I trust that he will be a suitable representative to discuss matters both from the perspective of the Governor and from the trial bench.

Should there be any need for additional discussion prior to the meeting later today, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William C. McKinney".

William C. McKinney

CC: Bradley T. Adcock