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Jeffrey A. Crossman **Casey Weinstein**
15th District 37th District

August 26, 2021

Office of the Inspector General
30 East Broad Street, Suite 2940
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Inspector General Investigation Request

Dear Inspector General Randall J. Meyer,

As the scandal surrounding House Bill 6 and former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder continues to unfold, it has become apparent that there are significant questions about the involvement or connection of individuals within the Ohio Governor's office and other state agencies to the scandal. As the Inspector General for the State of Ohio, it is within your scope of duties to investigate the management and operation of state agencies in order to determine whether wrongful acts and omissions have been committed or are being committed by state officers or state employees. While there are pending investigations into some of these matters, your office has an obligation to investigate the alleged wrongdoings of appointed officials that continues to shake the faith of Ohioans in our government.

With that background in mind, we write to request that you open an investigation into various employees in the Governor's office as well as other agencies within your purview. Specifically:

- **Dan McCarthy, Director of Legislative Affairs.** Mr. McCarthy is a former FirstEnergy lobbyist, and was president of the dark money group Partners for Progress Inc. that has been referred to by federal prosecutors as an "Energy Pass-Through". It was incorporated in Ohio on February 8, 2017, just two days after another dark money group implicated in the House Bill 6 scandal, Generation Now, was incorporated in Delaware. It is alleged that Partners for Progress received \$5 million from FirstEnergy, and passed at least \$1.2 million to Generation Now.
- **Laurel Dawson, former Chief of Staff for Governor DeWine, and currently an advisor to the Governor.** Ms. Dawson is linked to a former FirstEnergy lobbyist, Josh Rubin, through her business endeavors, and additionally, her husband has been a long time consultant of FirstEnergy. Further, Ms. Dawson was made aware of the \$4.3 million payment from FirstEnergy to former PUCO Chair Sam Randazzo as early as October 2020, but she reportedly failed to disclose the payment to Governor DeWine until Mr. Randazzo's home was raided by FBI agents.
- **Michael Hall, former Director of Policy for Governor DeWine, and currently Chief of Staff for the Governor.** Mr. Hall was Governor DeWine's campaign policy director and has since become Chief of Staff when Ms. Dawson was reassigned as an advisor to the Governor. Mr. Hall has been listed as an attendee to a meeting with AEP leadership and the Governor, and an AEP has been implicated in the House Bill 6 scandal due to its association with the dark money group Empowering Ohio's Economy.

- **Anne Vogel, Assistant Policy Director for Governor DeWine.** Ms. Vogel is one of Governor DeWine's lead policy directors on energy, and a former attorney with AEP. Ms. Vogel has been linked to gifts from an organization that received funding from Empowering Ohio's Economy, the AEP-backed dark money group also implicated in the House Bill 6 scandal.
- **Sam Randazzo, former Chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.** The FBI raided Mr. Randazzo's Columbus home in late November 2020, after which Mr. Randazzo resigned from the Commission. The former PUCO Chair has been implicated by FirstEnergy's admissions in the deferred prosecution agreement that it paid him \$4.3 million to ensure friendly administrative rulings while he was chair, including removing a requirement that FirstEnergy file a new distribution rate case in 2024 which in turn prolonged FirstEnergy's continued collection of millions of dollars per year in decoupling charges thanks to House Bill 6.
- **Scott Elisar, Legislative and Policy Director for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.** When former PUCO Chair Randazzo resigned from the PUCO Nominating Council because he had submitted his application to be appointed to the PUCO. Former Speaker Householder then appointed Mr. Elisar, a former law firm colleague of Mr. Randazzo's, to fill the vacancy. Subsequently, Mr. Randazzo hired Mr. Elisar to serve as the PUCO's legislative and policy director.

We thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jeffrey A. Crossman
State Representative
House District 15



Rep. Casey Weinstein
State Representative
House District 37