

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



February 19, 2016

Hand-Delivered

The Honorable Brad Owen, Lieutenant Governor
Second Floor, Legislative Building

Re: Status of Troy Kelley Impeachment

Dear Lieutenant Governor Owen:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you, as President of the Senate, of the House of Representatives' intentions with respect to impeachment of State Auditor Troy Kelley.

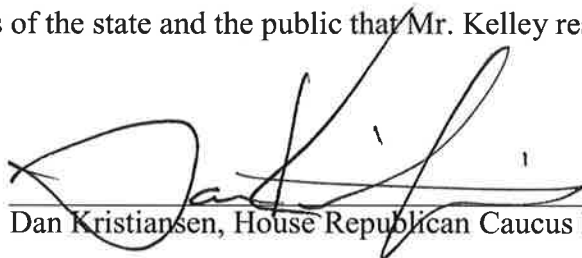
Under our state constitution, any action to impeach must originate with the House, with prosecution and final disposition by the Senate. We consider the charges facing Mr. Kelley to be very serious. He was indicted by federal prosecutors in April of last year, and a new indictment was later filed with multiple counts, including allegations of money laundering, possession of stolen property, and filing false income tax returns. Although these charges all relate to his personal or other professional business, they undermine public faith in his ability to act as the chief overseer of government accountability and transparency.

We, along with our Senate counterparts, sent a letter to Mr. Kelley in September, urging his resignation, as it is hard to see how he can focus on his state duties while facing these federal charges. While we believe his case would warrant impeachment proceedings, we are concerned that such a process could be used as a basis to delay his federal trial, which we believe is set to start on March 14 and could last many weeks. Ultimately, it is this federal court which will decide the merits of the charges and any final sanctions or sentences against Mr. Kelley. Because we wish to avoid any excuse for delaying this trial, we are placing on hold for the time being any impeachment proceedings.

We also continue to believe it is in the best interests of the state and the public that Mr. Kelley resign his office of State Auditor immediately.

Respectfully,


Speaker Frank Chopp


Dan Kristiansen, House Republican Caucus Leader

cc: Senator Mark Schoesler, Majority Leader | Senator Sharon Nelson, Democratic Caucus Leader
State Auditor Troy Kelley