

*127th Legislature*  
*Senate of*  
*Maine*  
*Senate District 17*

*Senator Thomas B. Saviello*  
*3 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333-0003*  
*(207) 287-1505*

June 29, 2015

Government Oversight Committee  
82 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04330-0082

Chairman Katz and Chairman Kruger,

Recent reports, if accurate, offer a chilling example of a potential overstep of executive authority by the Governor. As you know, Speaker Eves was recently hired by Good Will-Hinckley to become the school's next President. As has been reported, prior to hiring Eves, Gov. LePage lobbied the school in opposition to this potential hiring. After the school decided to proceed with hiring Eves as their President, Gov. LePage apparently called on the school to rescind the offer. As part of this effort, it has been alleged that Gov. LePage threatened to withhold approximately \$500,000 annually in funding for the school if they did not terminate their contract with Eves.

Like you, I take my role as an elected official seriously and firmly believe that our responsibility is not simply to protect the wellbeing of this state, but also to protect the sanctity of our democracy. For that reason, I am deeply troubled by recent highly-publicized reports suggesting the administration may have used state funding as a tool to target political opponents. In keeping with the legislature's role as a check and balance to potential executive overreach, I am writing to formally request that OPEGA investigate whether this administration has crossed legal or ethical lines by leveraging state resources for political purposes.

On June 24, 2015, Good Will-Hinckley School reversed their decision to hire Speaker Eves.

My request to OPEGA is as follows:

- 1) Outline an appropriate scope of investigation to reasonably determine whether allegations of political use of state resources are justified
- 2) Review the allocation process for funding specific to the Good Will-Hinckley situation
- 3) Review the allocation process of other discretionary funding available to the Administration

- 4) Report any examples of improper or potentially inappropriate discretionary use of state resources

This request is made with the intent of clarifying for the public what occurred and ensuring that the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches remains equal. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Saviello".

Senator Thomas Saviello

CC: John McGough, Office of the Governor  
Representative Ken Fredette, House Minority Leader  
Representative Jeff McCabe, House Majority Leader  
Senator Garrett Mason, Senate Majority Leader  
Senator Justin Alford, Senate Minority Leader  
Speaker Mark Eves, Speaker of the House  
President Michael Thibodeau, President of the Senate