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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**MATT HALL**  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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March 18, 2025

Hon. Winnie Brinks, Majority Leader  
Michigan Senate  
100 N. Capitol Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: *Michigan Senate et al. v. Michigan House of Representatives et al.*  
Court of Claims Case No. 25-000014-MB  
Court of Appeals Case No. 374786

Majority Leader Brinks,

I have received your letter regarding the unprecedented litigation initiated against the House of Representatives by the Senate. Last week, the House appealed the opinion and order issued by the Court of Claims in the case and, as you know, the Senate and you filed a cross-appeal. The matter is now before the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Although your letter says you intend to renew hostilities in the Court of *Claims*, a short while after we received the letter, we learned that the Senate has not only filed a claim of appeal in the Court of *Appeals*, but also petitioned the Michigan Supreme Court to bypass the appellate process entirely. Notably, your letter omitted any mention of this move (the appeal, nor the Supreme Court petition), despite the Senate's apparent effort to seek relief from three different courts simultaneously. This is certainly an unconventional strategy – one I suggest you reconsider if made in error.

In this case, you named me as a defendant in violation of the Michigan Constitution, as recognized by the Court of Claims. Even more concerning, however, is the new proposal in your letter to further violate the Michigan Constitution by requesting that the House of Representatives for the current 103rd Legislature transmit House bills enrolled by the House during the former 102nd Michigan Legislature to the Michigan Senate. That request is just as absurd as it sounds.

Nothing in the Michigan Constitution would permit the House of Representatives for the 103rd Legislature to transmit House bills enrolled by the House during the 102nd Legislature. The bills and business of the 102nd Legislature did not carry over into the 103rd Legislature. Nor do the rules of the House permit the transmission of enrolled House bills to the Senate. Allow me to assure you that the issue here is not the hundred or so paces between our clerks' offices, but the unconstitutionality of your request and the violation of the clearly expressed legislative rules it would represent.

Unfortunately, when attempting to conclude its business last year, the 102nd Legislature did not adjourn its session in the manner mandated by Section 13 of Article IV of the Michigan Constitution. Compounding this failure to comply with the Constitution, the House of Representatives for the 102nd Legislature did not

complete the remaining business of the 102nd Legislature by timely presenting enrolled House bills passed by both houses of the 102nd Legislature before the new 103rd Michigan Legislature convened.

As a body, the House of Representatives for the 103rd Legislature recently affirmed its position on the presentation of enrolled bills by adopting House Resolution 41, providing direction to the clerk of the House and a clear reiteration of the House's rules with regard to presentment. I am not sure if the secretary of the Senate shared his copy with you, so I have attached one here for your review. Please know that we will not violate House rules by ignoring House Resolution 41 and delivering the bills to the governor or secretary of the Senate. You should not ask us to do so.

It is 2025. The business of the 102nd Legislature has concluded. Under Section 35 of Article IV of the Michigan Constitution, all laws enacted at the second regular session of the 102nd Legislature were required to be published in book form within 60 days after final adjournment of that session. That constitutional deadline has passed and so has the business of the 102nd Legislature.

It is unfortunate for those who support these bills that you did not take the same interest in presenting them during the term in which they were passed that you have since January 8, 2025. Perhaps all of this could have then been avoided. But even now, it is not too late to stop trying to legislate through the courts rather than through our Constitution's bicameral process. You and your colleagues can still join the House in working on the problems facing Michigan in 2025, rather than attempting to go back in time and erase the failures of 2024.

I hope this letter has clearly explained the position of the House of Representatives on this matter. But if not, you might turn to the already-voluminous court filings the House has made in response to the Senate's unconstitutional lawsuit for greater context and exposition.

Sincerely,



Matt Hall  
Speaker of the House  
42nd District

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