



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Office of the State Auditor

Leslie W. Merritt, Jr., CPA, CFP
State Auditor

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April 17, 2008

Mr. Franklin Freeman
Chairman, Email Records Review Panel
Capitol Building, 1 East Edenton Street
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Chairman Freeman,

Thank you for your commitment to open government and securing the transparency of public records.

I wish to convey to you the importance of retaining emails as public records. Today, emails serve in place of written letters and telephone conversations. They tend to confirm the occurrence of actual events and provide a unique window into the operation of State government. For the Office of the State Auditor, emails serve as information in the audit trail. Their retention aids our ability to carry out all of our audits including the vital role of uncovering fraud, waste and abuse in State government.

Thank you again for your commitment to a transparent State government and let me know if I can be of help to resolve this most important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie Merritt".

Leslie Merritt, Jr., CPA, CFP
North Carolina State Auditor

cc: Governor Mike Easley
Mr. George Bakolia
Mr. Bryan Beatty
Mr. Ned Cline
Mr. DeWitt F. McCarley
Ms. Staci Meyer
Mr. Chuck Neely