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Washington Coalition for Open Government

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August 27, 2010

Governor Christine Gregoire
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Coalition for Open Government to express our concern with the delay in filling vacancies on the Public Records Exemption Accountability Committee (Sunshine Committee).

Under the law (RCW 42.56.140), you are required to appoint six of the thirteen committee members, including the committee chair. As of today, two of your six appointments are vacant and two are expired. The vacant positions include those of former Chair Tom Carr (vacant since May) and Candy Jackson (vacant since 2009). The positions of Frank Garred and Patience Rogge expired August 6, 2010, though the members have been advised they can remain on the committee until you take action to reappoint or replace them.

To help address the lack of an appointed chair, the committee elected two vice chairs at its August 17 meeting; retiring Rep. Lynn Kessler was elected First Vice Chair, and Tim Ford of the Attorney General's Office was elected Second Vice Chair. It is our understanding that Rep. Kessler has offered to continue to serve as a citizen member and is open to being appointed chair; this is a development we fully support.

In order for the Sunshine Committee to fulfill its important role, it must be at full strength and have enough members to ensure a quorum. It is our hope that you will quickly address the gubernatorial vacancies on the committee. We are happy to work with you to suggest potential members.

Sincerely,

WASHINGTON COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT



Toby Nixon
President