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AppropriationTestimony
HB 6353, 6354

Dear Committee Members,

As a former Board member at the Office of State Ethics, I respectfully urge, with deep conviction, the rejection of House Bills 6353 and 6354 in their present form. The one would compromise the financial independence, the other the administrative independence, of this vital watchdog agency. Surely it requires no detailed argument to establish that it is a contradiction in terms to make such an agency accountable to the political branches that it is charged with monitoring and investigating. Both of these measures -- no doubt well intentioned, but dangerously ill advised -- will have the inevitable effect of further draining the public's confidence in the integrity of our state government. I acknowledge the need for streamlining in the interest of economy, but this is not the way to do it.

Thank you for the courtesy of your attention.

Yours truly,

Martin B. Margulies