

ANDREW MURR
CHAIR



ANN JOHNSON
VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL INVESTIGATING
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 23, 2023

By Electronic Mail and Interagency Mail

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas
Post Office Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: **Document Preservation In Connection with Legislative Investigation**

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

As the Chairman of the House Committee on General Investigating, I preside over the committee authorized under Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, and the House Rules of Procedure of the 88th Legislature to initiate inquiries and hearing concerning any agency or subdivision of government within the state.

The House has been conducting an investigation related to your request for \$3.3 million dollars of public money to pay a settlement resolving litigation between your agency and terminated whistleblowers (Brickman, et. al., v. Office of the Attorney General, No. D-1-GN-20-006861 (201st Dist. Ct., Travis County, Tex. Nov. 12, 2020)). The committee's inquiry has reached the stage where they have directed the issuance of a preservation letter to you and your agency.

You, your employees, your agents, and any other persons or entities over whom you exercise care, custody, or control are hereby notified to preserve all communications between your office and any other person related to the matter of the proposed settlement in Brickman, et. al., v. Office of the Attorney General, No. D-1-GN-20-006861 (201st Dist. Ct., Travis County, Tex. Nov. 12, 2020). You, your employees, your agents, and any other persons or entities over whom you exercise care, custody, or control are similarly notified to preserve all documents related to the termination of the whistleblowers and the alleged wrongful conduct engaged in by you and your office.



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Please immediately suspend all of your destruction policies for all documents, electronic or magnetic data, downloads, and tangible items and preserve all documents, electronic or magnetic data, downloads, and tangible items relating the above cited case and any related litigation. The failure to preserve and retain this information may constitute spoliation of evidence and subject you to legal claims for damages or monetary sanctions.

As part of any future investigation by the committee, you may be requested to produce responsive documents, electronic or magnetic data, downloads, and tangible items. You have an obligation to take reasonable steps to ensure that all relevant documents, electronic or magnetic data, downloads, and tangible items are safeguarded and preserved until otherwise notified by me or the committee.

Please contact my committee staff if you have any questions about your duty to fully comply with this letter. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Murr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Andrew Murr, Chair
House Committee on General Investigation

