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December 21, 2011

The Honorable Beverly Perdue  
Governor  
State of North Carolina  
116 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Governor Perdue:

On December 19, 2011, the *Carolina Journal* reported a potential unauthorized release of unemployment numbers gathered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).<sup>1</sup> The accusation was based on emails between the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina (ESCNC) and your office. The emails contain BLS statewide unemployment data for the private sector and state and municipal governments. The data is referred to in detail by the two entities in press releases prepared prior to the authorized release of this information by BLS. This journal article also suggests that you used this information in a speech almost 24 hours before the information was publicly available.

BLS has implemented various security protocols to ensure the integrity of this data and prevent its inappropriate release. Data is shared with states, but cooperative agreements with each state limit when the information may be publicly released. Congress has implemented strong penalties to deter and punish early release of this data, including the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act.<sup>2</sup> It is my understanding the Secretary of Labor receives this information only 30 minutes prior to its public release.

To ensure BLS data is not being shared prior to the authorized release date, I request you provide the following information by January 4, 2011:

1. A copy of the State of North Carolina's cooperative agreement with BLS;

<sup>1</sup> "Perdue Media Team Used Confidential Data To Spin Jobs Reports." *Carolina Journal*, December 19, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> P. L. 107-347

The Honorable Beverly Perdue

December 21, 2011

Page 2

2. All documents and communications related to the protocols your office and ESCNC have put in place to protect against the unauthorized dissemination of this information;
3. All documents and communications relating to the potential unauthorized release of BLS data;
4. All documents and communications between your office and ESCNC relating to unemployment data; and
5. All documents and communications between ESCNC and U.S. Department of Labor relating to unemployment data.

If your staff has any questions regarding this request, please contact Joe Wheeler or Loren Sweatt of the committee staff at 202-225-7101.

Sincerely,



JOHN KLINE  
Chairman