



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CARL E. HEASTIE
Speaker

Room 932
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
(518) 455-3791

May 9, 2018

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Minority Leader
New York State Senate
The Capitol, Room 315
Albany, NY 12247
Via Hand Delivery

Hon. Brian M. Kolb
Minority Leader
New York State Assembly
The Capitol, Room 340
Albany, NY 12248
Via Hand Delivery

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins and Assemblyman Kolb:

As we are all aware, by the close of business yesterday, the office of State Attorney General became vacant due to Eric Schneiderman's resignation. Public Officers Law, section 41, requires the State Legislature to appoint someone to act as attorney general for the remainder of the term:

When a vacancy occurs or exists, other than by removal, in the office of comptroller or attorney-general, or a resignation of either such officer to take effect at any future day shall have been made while the legislature is in session, the two houses thereof, by joint ballot, shall appoint a person to fill such actual or prospective vacancy.

In order to fulfill our legal responsibilities under the State Constitution and the Public Officers Law, we propose that we immediately begin the process of interviewing for such person by establishing a committee of legislators to review applicants' resumes and conduct public interviews. This process would allow us the opportunity to recommend or select a well-qualified replacement, so that public uncertainty regarding who fills this important office will be resolved as soon as reasonably practical.

Towards that end, the Assembly Majority will appoint the chairs of its standing committees on Codes, Judiciary, Governmental Operations and Consumers to serve on this committee. We requested that the Senate majority also appoint four members of the committee but so far they have declined to participate.

We welcome their participation and hope they will reconsider. We request that each of you choose two of your members to also serve on this committee.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl E. Heastie".

Carl E. Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly

Cc: Hon. John J. Flanagan
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
The Capitol, Room 330
Albany, NY 12247
Via Hand Delivery