



**Jacob W. Hummel**  
**Minority Floor Leader**  
**Missouri House of Representatives**

Oct. 14, 2015

The Honorable Todd Richardson  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol, Room 308 A  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Speaker Richardson:

Five months ago, your predecessor was forced to resign in disgrace after his inappropriate relationship with a teenage intern became public. Upon your elevation to speaker under these unfortunate circumstances, you promised the people of Missouri that the House of Representatives would take strong and decisive steps to ensure the young interns who come to the Capitol to learn and work are protected from inappropriate sexual advances and harassment.

Since the former speaker departed, a state senator likewise was forced to resign amid allegations he sexually harassed an intern, and several former interns have come forward with stories of how they were victims of sexual harassment at the hands of lawmakers and other adults who work in the Capitol. This is a serious problem that requires serious and immediate attention.

The Missouri House of Representatives is obligated to ensure interns who come to the Capitol to learn and work are protected from inappropriate sexual advances and harassment. We owe that much to the people of Missouri, our institutions of higher education and the students they entrust to us. However, other than a vague outline of possible policy changes informally distributed a couple months ago, no action has been taken on this matter.

By contrast, just two days after the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported about a plan to build a 2,500-acre state park in Oregon County that is opposed by some local officials and residents, you established the Interim Committee to Investigate State Park Creation, which will hold hearings in the coming weeks. The launching of an immediate and thorough investigation over the building of a new state park appears to elevate its importance over the sexual harassment of young women by lawmakers and others. Although that might not have been your intention, it is the result.

With universities beginning the process of placing interns for the upcoming legislative session, it is vital for the House to develop and implement effective policies to help protect interns without further delay. Therefore, we respectfully request that an interim committee be appointed to hold public hearings aimed at eradicating sexual harassment from the Capitol work environment or allow an existing standing committee to do so.

Sincerely,



Jake Hummel  
House Minority Leader  
State Representative – District 81



Gail McCann-Beatty  
House Asst. Minority Leader  
State Representative – District 26



John Rizzo  
House Minority Whip  
State Representative – District 19



Karla May  
Minority Caucus Secretary  
State Representative – District 84



Jon Carpenter  
Minority Caucus Vice-Chair  
State Representative District - 15



Gina Mitten  
Minority Caucus Chair  
State Representative – District 83



Kim Gardner  
Minority Caucus Policy Chair  
State Representative – District 77



Jeanne Kirkton  
State Representative – District 91



Kip Kendrick  
State Representative – District 45