



September 16, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

Speaker Philip Gunn  
Capitol Room 306  
400 High Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
[pgunn@house.ms.gov](mailto:pgunn@house.ms.gov)

Andrew Ketchings, Clerk of the House  
Capitol Room 305  
400 High Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
[AKetchings@house.ms.gov](mailto:AKetchings@house.ms.gov)

**Re: Mississippi Public Records Act Request**

Dear Speaker Gunn and Clerk Ketchings:

Pursuant to the Mississippi Public Records Act, Miss. Code § 25-61-1 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that the office of Speaker Gunn produce the following records within seven working days:

1. All records reflecting the full content of any post published to ALEC Connect<sup>1</sup> by Speaker Gunn (including the original post and the complete comment thread).
2. All records reflecting the full content of any ALEC Connect posts (including the original post and the complete comment thread) on which Speaker Gunn commented.

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<sup>1</sup> ALEC Connect is the online portal of the American Legislative Exchange Council. As a member of ALEC, Speaker Gunn has access to ALEC Connect and its content. *See Convening Ideas Across the States*, State Policy Network, Dec. 5, 2019, <https://spn.org/blog/convening-ideas-across-the-states/>; Nick Surgey, *Weapons, Tobacco Makers, Koch Group Are Among Newest ALEC Members*, Documented, Dec. 2, 2020, <https://documented.net/2020/11/weapons-tobacco-makers-koch-group-are-among-newest-alec-members/>.



3. All records reflecting the full content of any ALEC Connect posts or comments (including the original post and the complete comment thread) mentioning or tagging Speaker Gunn by name, username, or email address.
4. All files uploaded to ALEC Connect by Speaker Gunn.
5. All files downloaded from ALEC Connect by Speaker Gunn, whether to a government or personal device.
6. All records reflecting the full content of any written exchanges on ALEC Connect, including chats, concerning legislation or policy issues in which Speaker Gunn participated. Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that this request specifically excludes, chats with ALEC support staff concerning information technology troubleshooting or related issues.
7. All records reflecting the content of Speaker Gunn's ALEC Connect member profile page.
8. All records reflecting any expense report submitted through ALEC Connect by Speaker Gunn, any communications (including messages sent through ALEC Connect or by email) concerning any such expense report, and any records reflecting reimbursement, approval, rejection, or other action in response to any such expense report.

Please provide all responsive records from August 1, 2019, through the date the search is conducted.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee.

### **Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records**

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. For instance, if the request seeks "communications," please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files, appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, text messages or other direct messaging systems (such as iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter direct messages), voicemail messages, instant messaging systems such as Lync or ICQ, and shared messages systems such as Slack.
- In conducting your search, please understand the terms "record," "document," and "information" in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of

any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.

- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

### **Conclusion**

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information

gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.<sup>2</sup>

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Hart Wood at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 873-1743.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hart Wood  
Hart Wood  
on behalf of  
American Oversight

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<sup>2</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 15,630 page likes on Facebook and 108,100 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Sept. 8, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Sept. 8, 2021).