



North Carolina General Assembly
Senate
Office of Senator Benton G. Sawrey

10TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 521 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 N. SALISBURY STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27603-5925
PHONE: (919) 715-3040
EMAIL: BENTON.SAWREY@NCLEG.GOV

COMMITTEES:

HEALTH CARE, CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET
ELECTIONS
JUDICIARY
RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

Dear Byron,

We write to you today regarding the proposed censure of councilwoman Susan Parrish Watson that is on the agenda for this evening's Selma Town Council meeting.

A censure is an extraordinary tool that should only be used in the most serious of circumstances after thorough investigation and deliberation. We have reviewed the reasoning that you intend to consider for the censure and it fails to meet that heightened standard. In fact, it appears that this is an attempt to chill legitimate speech with official town action and punish someone that you believe is a political opponent.

Councilwoman Watson is deeply committed to the Town of Selma and Johnston County. She has a longstanding commitment to public service and served on a number of different boards at the local and state level with distinction, including currently being the chairwoman of the Johnston County Services Board. She is trusted by the Selma residents that she represents. We have watched the council meetings and it appears that she is a fair advocate and brings important perspective to debates.

We want to see the Town continue to move forward and grow; this appears, however, to be a serious distraction from the work that the Town of Selma should be doing to serve its citizens and businesses. We respectfully ask that you re-consider your decision to move forward with the censure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benton G. Sawrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Senator Benton G. Sawrey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry C. Strickland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping tail.

Representative Larry C. Strickland

Cc: Hon. Susan Watson