



State of North Carolina
Department of the Secretary of State

ELAINE F. MARSHALL
SECRETARY OF STATE

June 27, 2018

Dear Friends and North Carolina Secretary of State Lobbying Registration Customers:

This is my last letter to you as North Carolina's Administrator of Lobbying Registration Compliance. As you may know, by action of the General Assembly, that duty has been transferred to another agency, the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement. I want to take this opportunity to say that it has been a pleasure to work with you and our State's entire lobbying community. I am proud of both our partnership in completing thousands of lobbyist and principal registrations over the years, and in how transparent all of our shared work product has been for our citizens over the years.

For more than 80 years, the North Carolina Secretary of State's Office provided the public and lobbying community with transparent information in an unbiased manner that kept the "sunshine" shining brightly when it came to lobbying activities. We have always operated this division free from fear or favor. This was important work because everyone—from the news media to other lobbyists—needs to know who is registered and compensated to influence our public officials in the hallways of government.

A memorable personal experience as Administrator of lobbying registration came in January 2004 when I appointed the study commission that recommended the most significant improvements for North Carolina's lobbying law. Many of you veteran observers and participants in the lobbying community will recall how that study commission's final report was a great success, which led to the reform legislation that moved North Carolina into the mainstream of the country in this regard.

Over the years, the agency has received many compliments from citizens, civic leaders, liaisons, lobbyists and principals about this unit's performance and public access to the filings. For example, 82% of those who responded to our 2017 survey agreed that our Lobbying Compliance Division met their expectations for "good customer service".

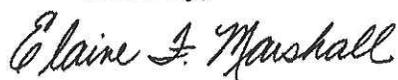
As much as I appreciate all the kind words for my staff and me on our easy-access lobbying recordkeeping system, I must let you know that our work on the Lobbying Registration Compliance section of our website ends on June 28, 2018. **Effective at NOON on Thursday, June 28, you can no longer file reports, registrations or other lobbying-related documents with the Secretary of State's Office. Effective at NOON on Thursday, June 28, you will no longer be able to view lobbying filings at www.sosnc.gov.** That same day, Lobbying Compliance Division staff will move to the Board's offices, and questions should be directed there. My expectation is that the Board will be providing information on how to start submitting lobbying related filings to it.

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Lastly, I want to thank Board Chairman Andy Penry for his efforts during this transition to help everyone involved make this process a smooth one. The Board staff also deserves thanks for their many efforts to iron out the wrinkles that pop up during such changes. I know that the State Board will do everything in its power to quickly integrate lobbying, ethics, and elections subjects into a cohesive set of services for the People of North Carolina.

I truly believe that this activity and the resulting transparency is of major importance because everyone in our society has the right to know who is employed to influence governmental officials. I have endeavored to fulfill these duties to you and all of the citizens of North Carolina in an accessible and accountable manner. Thank you again for all of our great years of partnership! I wish each and every one of you all the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine F. Marshall".

Elaine F. Marshall