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**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

CHAIR:
STATE AGENCIES & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER:
REVENUE & TAXATION
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RULES, RESOLUTIONS & MEMORIALS
JOINT BUDGET
ETHICS

February 6, 2023

Arkansas Independent Citizens Commission
State Capitol Building
500 Woodlane Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you in advance of the Independent Citizens Commission meeting scheduled for Friday, February 17, 2023, to share my belief that increases in legislative pay should be reviewed at a later time.

Our state has many pressing budgetary needs and raising pay for lawmakers should not register as an urgent priority. Arkansas workers and families have faced extraordinary levels of inflation over the past year, but many have not received a commensurate pay increase as the economy continues to struggle. In my view, it would be inappropriate to raise legislative pay at this time when many Arkansans are facing the uncertainty imposed by this economy.

I respect the work and independence of the commission and I thank you for taking the time to consider my input.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blake Johnson".

Blake Johnson
Senate Majority Leader
District 21