**Public Comment**

**Email to Commissioners from Lloyd Kassler**

I want to apologize to all of you for not appearing this morning in person to your meeting.  I have listened to the audio tape of the proceedings, and fear that possibly I caused some concern of perception of your thought process, and that was never my intention.  All of you are people of very high integrity, and listening to this tape very much supports that observation.  The citizens of Arkansas more than likely do not recognize how lucky we are to have you serve in your capacity.

Independent Citizens Commission

State Capitol Building

Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Meeting of September 8, 2021 – audio tape

Dear Commissioners:

I want to apologize that I was not in attendance for this meeting, and for your obvious time relating to my original correspondence. After reading the posted Meeting Notice, and the Draft Agenda online, I did not see that there was an opportunity for the public to speak. I should have called the listed number given and asked, but I didn’t. Mr. Banks stated in his email to me that there was always an opportunity for anyone to speak, but I wasn’t sure that this was the correct time and therefore did not take off of work to appear. Once more my apologies for writing a letter, but not appearing before you.

Your explanation on the record as to your service on this Commission, and the task given as you see it, was very informative and appreciated. Thank you for taking your time to do this.

All of you are very successful individuals in your respective fields, and due to this success have come to the attention of those that appointed you to this Commission. I am sure all of you are of high integrity, and I in no means meant to imply through my letter that you are not using all of your knowledge as intended when serving on this Commission. Your service is recognized, valuable, and appreciated.

I believe I have stated my feelings regarding Elected office holder’s, and Judge’s pay scales, and it was obvious you considered that viewpoint and took due diligence with your decision making process when considering raises to these pay scales.

According to the United States Census (census.gov/quickfacts/AR), the average per capita income for the State of Arkansas is $26,577 (in 2019 dollars). I hope that you keep this in mind in the future while you are sitting on this Commission. Perhaps when comparing salaries in other states for these positions, you could also compare the regular citizen’s income range with those in the State of Arkansas also.

What truly sparked my original letter was a comment made during the August 25 meeting where someone compared the hardship of filling up a car with gas to a person making a 6 figure salary as the same as that of someone receiving Government stimulus/assistance. To me that line of reasoning was way out of the realm of reality, and served no purpose as an analogy of awarding raises. It just sounded wrong. So I wrote the letter.

Your time is valuable, and once more if you made it this far in my letter I truly thank you.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Kassler

Bryant, AR