

BEN GILMORE

SENATOR
1ST DISTRICT
(501) 467-5952
ben.gilmore@senate.ar.gov

POST OFFICE BOX 1197
CROSSETT, ARKANSAS 71635



THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

CHAIR:
JOINT ENERGY

VICE CHAIR:
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEMBER:
JUDICIARY
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CHILDREN & YOUTH
JOINT BUDGET

January 16, 2023

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

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to you in advance of the Independent Citizens Commission meeting scheduled for January 20, 2023, to share our belief that increases in legislative pay are not justified at this time.

Our state has many pressing budgetary needs such as increasing teacher pay, building adequate prison space to maintain public safety, and enacting tax relief that rewards hardworking taxpayers. Raising pay for lawmakers should not register as a significant priority on this list. Arkansas's 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 flounder. In our view, it would be inappropriate to raise legislative pay at this time when many Arkansans have to face choices such as whether to heat their home or buy their groceries.

We respect and appreciate the work this commission does, and we thank you for taking the time to consider our input.

Thank you,

Handwritten signature of Ben Gilmore, Jr.

Ben Gilmore
State Senator – District 1

Handwritten signature of Howard M. Beaty, Jr.

Howard M. Beaty, Jr.
State Representative – District 95

Handwritten signature of David Ray.

David Ray
State Representative – District 69