



November 10, 2021

The Honorable Rudy Salas, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
1020 N Street, Room 107
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Joint Legislative Audit Committee's State Auditor Nomination Process

Dear Chairman Salas,

We undersigned Legislative Republican Leaders and members of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) write today regarding the upcoming decision of JLAC to nominate individuals for consideration as the next State Auditor.

It has been over 20 years since the current State Auditor was first appointed. While there is no incumbent seeking nomination this time, the committee must continue to ensure that we are accountable and fair in our deliberation of those seeking nomination. It is through this lens that we propose that JLAC adopt the same process used by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) in 2019 to appoint the Legislative Analyst.

The JLBC process promoted accountability and bipartisanship by allowing both Democrats and Republicans to be involved in the screening of applicants. This was achieved by having one Democrat and one Republican from each house assigned to a subcommittee to review applications, vet candidates, and make a recommendation to the full committee. Additionally, the public was provided the opportunity to learn about the candidate, and participate in public comment before the individual was confirmed. This process is much more transparent than the method used by JLAC in 2017, which resulted in an ultimate decision being made in a closed session. This was followed by a rushed 20-minute public hearing where there was little chance for the public to be properly informed on who the candidates under consideration were.

Government inefficiency, along with waste, fraud, and abuse, affect all Californians, so it only makes sense that this process should be open, transparent, and enjoy bipartisan cooperation

from the start. We look forward to your response, and stand ready to assist in helping select the next State Auditor. If you have any questions about our request, please contact Scott Seekatz and Daniel Ballon, our respective JLAC Policy Consultants for the Senate and Assembly Republican Caucuses.

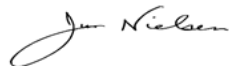
Sincerely,



Scott Wilk
Senate Republican Leader



Marie Waldron
Assembly Republican Leader



Jim Nielsen
Senator, 4th District



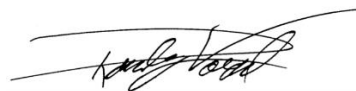
Andreas Borgeas
Senator, 8th District



Kevin Kiley
Assemblyman, 6th District



Jim Patterson
Assemblyman, 23rd District



Randy Voepel
Assemblyman, 71st District

cc: The Honorable John Laird, Vice-Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee