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September 22, 2017

Department of Legislative Audit
Mr. Tim Flannery
427 South Chappelle
Pierre, SD 57501

**Re: Government Operations and Audit Committee Letters of September 12, 2017
to Pamela Haukaas and Lloyd Persson**

Dear Mr. Flannery:

I represent Mid-Central Educational Cooperative (Mid-Central). The Government Operations and Audit Committee (GOAC), in its September 12, 2017 letters referenced above, requested the appearance of Pamela Haukaas and Lloyd Persson at its October 5 & 6, 2017 meetings in Sioux Falls. The GOAC also requested that Mid-Central provide written answers to questions in these letters.

Mid-Central is currently involved in litigating several lawsuits related to the GEAR UP program, including one lawsuit filed against it by the State of South Dakota. As such, Ms. Haukaas and Mr. Persson, or anyone else associated with Mid-Central, respectfully decline to appear at the October meeting or any other upcoming GOAC meeting. Mid-Central, Ms. Haukaas, and Mr. Persson also respectfully decline to answer any written questions because of the pending lawsuits.

RECEIVED

SEP 25 2017

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Klass Law Firm, LLP

Mr. Tim Flannery

Re: GOAC

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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryland Deinert', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ryland Deinert