

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2008

**ETHICS COMMISSION CHAIR COMMENDS
REPRESENTATIVE KEN MILLER
APPEARING AT REGULAR MEETING**

OKLAHOMA CITY. Chairman of the Oklahoma Ethics Commission Don Bingham today issued the following statement:

“At last Friday's meeting of the Ethics Commission, State Representative Ken Miller, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, appeared in person and made a presentation of his views concerning the Commission's request for additional funding for the current fiscal year.

“Representative Miller stated that, based upon the information made available to him so far, the Commission appeared to be operating well and there was no evident need for additional funding at this time. Significantly, however, he invited the Commissioners to resume discussions with Legislative leadership about the sufficiency of current funding. Representative Miller indicated that he remained open to considering new information that would justify additional funding for the Commission.

“At the conclusion of Representative Miller's remarks, Commissioners indicated that, although there are honest disagreements about the sufficiency of the Commission's current

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appropriation, Commissioners welcomed his invitation to resume discussions with Legislative leaders on the issue.

“Commissioners commended Representative Miller for his decision to appear in person and explain his views, and for his willingness to review the existing appropriation. Apparently, some sources have now portrayed Representative Miller's presentation last Friday as an attempt to threaten or intimidate the Commission.

“The Commissioners strongly disagree with any such portrayal. In fact, because we believe that Legislative reconsideration of the Commission's budget request will produce a different outcome, we saw Representative Miller's comments as a positive step toward fair reconsideration of our request. His appearance and presentation have created a meaningful opportunity to make litigation over the funding issue unnecessary.

“Representative Miller and the other Legislative leaders of both parties, as well as the Governor, share our goals as Commissioners: to use taxpayer dollars in a prudent manner that sustains an effective Ethics Commission. We were honored that Representative Miller presented his views to the Commission in person, and we invite other elected officials to do the same.”

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