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VIA E-MAIL

Tom Rust Esq.
Staff Director and Chief Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C.
202-515-6328

Re: In the Matter of U.S. Rep. Michael Collins (R-GA) Committee
on Ethics Review of OCE Rev. No. 7736;
In the matter of Brandon Phillips, Committee on Ethics Review of OCE
Rev. No.25-7735

Dear Mr. Rust:

We represent Congressman Michael Collins and his Chief of Staff, Brandon Phillips, regarding the Office of Congressional Conduct (OCC) referrals, Review No. 25-7635 (Phillips) and Review No. 25-7636 (Collins) Thank you for sharing these materials with us. We have reviewed both referrals thoroughly. Based both on the many statements in the reports favorable to Congressman Collins and Mr. Phillips and our independent review of these matters, we respectfully request that the Committee vote to dismiss these matters as to both Congressman Collins and Brandon Phillips.

These referrals resulted from the consolidated submission of information to OCC from two disgruntled, former members of Congressman Collins staff. With respect to two of the three matters reviewed by OCC, both reports concluded that "the OCC was not able to reach a determination" on whether there was "a substantial reason to believe the allegations." See Collins Report at pp. 31-32, 35; Phillips Report at pp. 26, 31. We request that the Committee take no further action regarding these matters.

With respect to the remaining allegations, they all relate to Mr. Phillips's decision to hire an intern temporarily in the fourth quarters of 2023 and 2024. The evidence is that this temporary hiring was proper and done to assist the Office in serving the interests of the District. Mr. Phillips's decision to hire this intern was well within his discretion in managing the Congressman's office. This intern provided valuable assistance to the Office throughout both years regarding communications and other work of the Office. The temporary hiring and the small amount paid to the intern from available funds in the last quarter of the year were in recognition of the services the intern had provided throughout both years. The intern has continued this important work in 2025. Further review of these allegations will not serve the interests of Representative Collins's constituents or this Committee, and we respectfully request that the Committee close these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARK HILL



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RDD:dmp