

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

TO: Hugh Stevens FROM: CIRCLE ONE: Reuben Young, Andy Vanore, Liz Riley, Mary Lovin

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 3/5/08

FAX NUMBER: 755-0009 TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 2

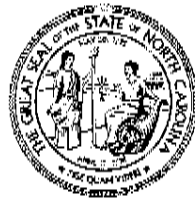
SUBJECT: Response to your letter

URGENT  FOR REVIEW  PLEASE COMMENT  PLEASE REPLY  PLEASE RECYCLE

**Comments:**

*See attached letter. A hard copy is being mailed*

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MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
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March 5, 2008

**VIA FACSIMILE and FIRST CLASS MAIL**

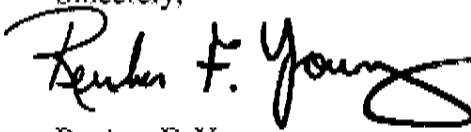
Hugh Stevens, Esquire  
Attorney at Law  
Everett, Gaskins, Hancock & Stevens, LLP  
Post Office Box 911  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-0911

Dear Hugh,

As legal counsel to the Governor, I reply to your March 4, 2008, letter addressed to Franklin Freeman alleging that "... state departments and agencies have been instructed by members of Governor Easley's staff systematically to delete and destroy email messages exchanged with the Office of the Governor."

As a result of my investigation, although time limited since your letter was received late yesterday, which included discussions with the Governor's staff and specifically the Communications Director, Press Secretary, and Deputy Press Secretary, I have concluded that there is absolutely no evidence to support your allegation. Stated differently, I find no evidence that anyone in the Governor's Office instructed any state agency, including DHHS, to systematically delete and destroy email messages exchanged with the Governor's Office.

Should you have evidence to the contrary, I respectfully request you immediately provide it to me.

Sincerely,  
  
Reuben F. Young

RFY:mrl

c: John Drescher, Executive Editor, The News and Observer

