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Committees:
Veterans & Military Affairs
Appropriations & Budget Committee
Energy & Natural Resources Committee

House of Representatives

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Office of the House Democratic Leader

SCOTT M. INMAN
State Representative
District 94

March 31, 2017

Honorable Speaker McCall,

Yesterday it was brought to my attention that the email address that allows emails to be easily distributed to all Representatives in the House - representatives@okhouse.gov - has been changed to internal use only, restricting the general public from using it. This change must have occurred sometime between Wednesday morning and Thursday morning - Wednesday morning I received emails from both internal members and outside constituents using this address and yesterday, Thursday morning, I was alerted to the change. Furthermore, a constituent who used this email address Wednesday without problem received a return email yesterday while using the same address stating that it was for internal use only. Finally, the change was confirmed by IT yesterday afternoon. I am not sure what caused this change, but I would appreciate your assistance in asking IT to immediately restore public access.

As you know, civic engagement is the foundation of a strong democracy. Access to and transparency from our elected officials is needed now more than ever. As I'm sure you are aware, only months ago the House added an additional barrier to constituent access to legislators by deleting Representatives' email addresses from their information pages and replacing them with contact forms. Each week I receive numerous emails and calls about this change from understandably upset Oklahomans. Restricting access to representatives@okhouse.gov is yet another barrier to access and civic engagement that is not only unnecessary, but counterproductive to democratic ideals.

I would greatly appreciate your support and assistance in immediately restoring public access to representatives@okhouse.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott M. Inman".

Representative Scott M. Inman
Democratic Leader
Oklahoma House of Representatives