



*House of
Representatives*
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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**Chair – Business &
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Committee Member:
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May 17, 2021

Office of the Governor
The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt
Governor, State of Oklahoma
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Tom Bates
Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board Executive Director
and Members of the Board
2915 N. Classen, Suite 405
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

re: Request for independent review and investigation into the conviction of death row inmate Richard Glossip

Dear Governor Stitt, Director Bates, and Board Members,

We write today to request an independent investigation into the 1997 death of Barry Van Treese before any date is set for the execution of Richard Glossip. Based on newly discovered evidence, it appears that Mr. Glossip may be innocent of this crime.

As you know, the prosecution's case that put Mr. Glossip on death row has been called into serious question by compelling new witness statements and expert reports, along with other evidentiary problems, that can only be resolved by additional investigation and testing.

We do not approach this request lightly. We appreciate how difficult decisions like this are and know how seriously you take them. Many of those who have signed this letter support the death penalty but, as such, we have a moral obligation to make sure the State of Oklahoma never executes a person for a crime he did not commit. Mr. Glossip's case gives us pause, because it appears the police investigation was not conducted in a manner that gives us confidence that we know the truth. Killing Richard Glossip without certainty of his guilt will erode public trust, not only in capital punishment, but in the integrity and fairness of the entire Oklahoma criminal justice system.

In making this request for an independent and thorough review of this case, we are also hopeful that, if it is true that Justin Sneed had an accomplice who was in the room when the murder occurred, she may be brought to justice for her role in this crime. If Mr. Glossip is executed before a full review of the new evidence is completed, Oklahoma risks killing an innocent man and allowing one of the real murderers to escape justice. This cannot be acceptable when we can prevent it.

Mr. Glossip's lawyers have uncovered new evidence and have agreed to turn it over to an independent investigator. We now request that all information held by the District Attorney's office, or any police or law enforcement agency that investigated this case, also be turned over to an independent attorney or investigative agency chosen by you to look deeply into the case and issue a report to the Pardon and Parole Board before any new execution date is set for Mr. Glossip. The decision that the Pardon and Parole Board must make in recommending Clemency, and your decision as Governor to grant or deny it, should be made based on thorough and complete information which this in-depth review will provide. This is the only way the cloud of doubt surrounding Mr. Glossip's case can be lifted, and we can be confident that justice is done—one way or the other.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration and your leadership on this issue.

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