



# MASSACHUSETTS FISCAL ALLIANCE



November 16, 2016

Chairman – Elect Gus Bickford  
Massachusetts Democratic Party  
11 Beacon St., Ste 410  
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chairman – Elect Bickford:

Congratulations on your election to Chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. On behalf of The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, I look forward to working with you on the issues that matter to our members: fiscal responsibility and governmental transparency and accountability.

As you settle in to your new responsibilities, we urge you to return to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance any and all contributions the committee has received from former state representative Garrett Bradley and employees or associates at his firm, Thornton and Associates. Those funds are tainted, in all likelihood the result of an illegal scheme to funnel corporate contributions to candidates, a practice which is illegal under the rules of campaign finance in Massachusetts.

According to today's *Boston Globe*, Federal prosecutors have opened a grand jury investigation into Bradley and Thornton Associates, the law firm he heads. If the grand jury indicts the firm and its lawyers, the case could be the largest so-called "straw donor" action ever brought anywhere in the country.

The *Globe* further reported that the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee will surrender contributions from partners at the firm. The DSCC will join 19 elected officials who say they have either returned or donated more than \$900,000. According to the *Globe*, the list includes unsuccessful presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, Senator Edward Markey, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Representative Joseph Kennedy III, and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

Continuing to run the Democrat State Committee with funds obtained from the suspect sources strains ethical conduct. Until you have purged the committee of those funds, your party is participating in corruption of the highest order, in blatant contempt of the citizens of our state.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Craney  
Executive Director