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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** FLAG COMMISSION'S 11/20/00 MEETING  
**DATE** 11/21/00  
**CC:** SIMMONS  
TELL  
BOYD

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This memo is to advise you that the Flag Commission does not support your position of its recommending that the Legislature authorize a referendum for the public to vote between a new design and the traditional state flag. The Commission does not want to recommend putting the traditional flag on the ballot.

The Flag Commission's Design Committee met yesterday morning prior to the Commission's meeting. The Design Committee does not feel that it can recommend that the Legislature authorize a referendum for the citizenry to vote between a new design and the traditional flag design. The Committee said that it was charged with recommending a design. Vanessa Long and Fran Ivy said that putting the traditional design on the ballot would be defeating the Commission's purpose and responsibility. Governor Winter agreed and said that he thinks the Commission should recommend that the traditional flag be honored and be displayed in places of honor, such as on the plaza between the Sillers and Gartin buildings. I reminded him of your position on the matter.

The general tone of the Commission was to recommend a new design. There was some disagreement among members as to if the Legislature should vote on the design or if the Legislature should recommend a referendum. Rep. Steve Holland was the only member to say that the Commission's recommended design should be put on the ballot with the traditional state flag design for a straight up and down vote. Twelve commissioners went on the record as saying that they support a new design. Two commissioners (Representatives Holland and Jennings) stated that they are against a new design. Although the Clarion-Ledger reported that Senator Burton and Don Kilgore did not

indicate their preference, Senator Burton did state that we need a flag that will lead us into the new century. J. L. Holloway was not at yesterday's meeting.

Governor Winter appointed Dolphus Weary, Fran Ivy, Don Kilgore, Senator Chaney, Senator Frazier, Representative Holland and Representative Blackmon to serve with him on the committee to draft the Commission's report to you, Lt. Governor Tuck and Speaker Ford. The committee is to provide the Commission with two drafts during the next two weeks to comment on. The Commission is going to meet on December 5<sup>th</sup> to vote on the final report. I will be providing you and Sr. Staff with copies of these drafts for your comments.

I emailed Governor Winter this morning and explained that if the Commission recommends a vote, by either the Legislature or the public, of only one design, the state will be right back in this position if the recommended design does not win. With a straight up and down vote between a new design and the traditional flag, the state will have a flag after the vote. He and I spoke this afternoon and he said that he understands and shares my concern, but that he feels that the Commission is trying to offer the most affirmative option possible. He said that the Commission will have to work with the legislative leadership to ensure the Legislature's approval of a referendum for citizens to vote on one design. Winter said that this will send an affirmative message to the voters.

I will be picking up three designs from the graphic designer in the morning at 8:30 and will provide those to you as soon as I get into the office.