COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
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John Turner
Angell-Demmel North America Inc
810 W. Main Street
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Dear John:

I am writing to respond to your thoughtful request for an expression of my consent and blessing and to the possible engagement of state budget director Brad Cowgill as interim president of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

As you know, I have been keenly interested in CPE's search for a new president. In advance of the next regular session, CPE must develop and present to me and the General Assembly a funding model for higher education, which will encourage enrollment and graduation, promote fair and affordable tuition policies, ensure accountability in the use of public funds and advance the state's higher education 2020 goals.

I can certainly understand the logic of your interest in talking with Brad. Since the time for the completion of these critical tasks will be limited, the CPE predictably seeks an interim president who is familiar with the state's budget and the legislative processes. Brad enjoys the respect of many legislators and has demonstrated a passion for higher education.

I naturally approach the possibility of this opportunity for Brad with mixed emotions, as he has been one of my closest advisors and a valued friend throughout my service as Governor. Strong fiscal management has been one of the hallmarks of my administration, and Brad has been invaluable to me in achieving that objective.

I do believe that if chosen, he will do an outstanding job as President of CPE. He would be a tremendous asset, not only to the administration, but for the legislature and the higher education community, as well. His knowledge of the Commonwealth's budget and his passion and knowledge of education make him uniquely qualified. Please know, however, that you certainly have my authorization and encouragement to proceed with those discussions.

Sincerely,

Ernie Fletcher

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