



JOHN M. O'CONNOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 9, 2022

Representative Kevin McDugle
OK House of Representatives, Dist. 12
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 242
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

via email only to:
kevin.mcdugle@okhouse.gov

I appreciate your interest in this case dealing with the murder of Barry Van Treese. As you know, the people waived procedural objections to Richard Glossip's innocence claims. However, I cannot join in your request for an evidentiary hearing.

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals heard Glossip's case on appeal following his retrial and concluded that the evidence presented to the jury and Judge proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Glossip enlisted Justin Sneed to kill Mr. Van Treese in January of 1997.

Since that time, multiple courts have reviewed this evidence and determined that the jury that convicted Glossip and sentenced him to death did so in full accordance with the law. Glossip's case has been before the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals several times, and now the Court is considering Glossip's latest appeal which was filed only after his execution date was set. In addition to this, several federal courts, including the Western District of Oklahoma, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court, have rejected Glossip's claims along the way.

While my office has the utmost respect for the opinions of those members of the Legislature who wrote my office regarding this matter, it is the courts who are authorized to make decisions when claims of factual or legal innocence are raised on appeal. With that in mind, I look to the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals to carefully consider the claims before it and render a decision that complies with Oklahoma law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. O'Connor".

John M. O'Connor
Oklahoma Attorney General

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