



February 1st, 2023

The Honorable Dean Plocher
Speaker of the House
Missouri House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 308 A
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Speaker Plocher:

As has been the case with Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the country, state funding for Lincoln University historically has not kept pace with appropriations for Missouri's other land-grant institution. Such longstanding funding inequities led to the Tennessee Legislature establishing the Land Grant Institution Funding History Study Committee in 2020.


The six-member, bipartisan joint committee was charged with "investigating why Tennessee State University (TSU) has never received its full federal grant match funding from the State of Tennessee that should have been allocated under the Land Grant laws that created the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)." Its work resulted in Tennessee's governor recommending substantially increased funding for Tennessee State University, a historically Black university.


Although our state has made progress in recent years ensuring Lincoln University is better able to leverage its federal land-grant match, Missouri's historical pattern of shortchanging Lincoln University is well documented. Seeking a solution to these past inequities seems to be the righteous and prudent course.

Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you create a special committee to investigate and examine the historic funding disparities between the extension programs of Lincoln University and the University of Missouri. The committee should propose steps for Missouri – both immediately and long term – to put our institutions on more equitable financial terms.

A special committee of the Missouri House will allow committee members to singularly focus on this issue, making it the appropriate forum for addressing the funding disparities that have impacted Lincoln University for generations. Thank you for considering this request and we are hopeful you will find it worthy of prompt action.

Sincerely,



Rep. Kevin Windham
District 74


Rep. Donnie Brown
District 149


Rep. Jamie Burger
District 148


Rep. Dave Griffith
District 60


Rep. Raychel Proudie
District 73


Rep. Rudy Veit
District 59