March 8, 2022

Speaker Vos,

In a disturbing turn, last week’s testimony in the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections from Mike Gableman - who you personally selected to be your Special Counsel - has further emboldened those who seek to unlawfully overturn the results of the 2020 election. In the same hearing, Mr. Gableman endorsed legal theories that have been repeatedly debunked and policy approaches that you have personally dismissed. Since you hired him, you have repeatedly claimed that Mr. Gableman’s investigation is not about relitigating the 2020 election, and your silence on these latest comments by your Special Counsel demands an explanation.

In December 2021, you rejected the call from some officials in your party to eliminate the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), which you created in 2015. In 2021, you stated, “I don’t anticipate that we would even try.” However, last week, your Special Counsel repeatedly called for the elimination of the WEC, with his top recommendation to the legislature being: “Eliminate the Wisconsin Elections Commission.”

Last week, your Special Counsel also endorsed the idea that the legislature, “could decertify the certified electors in the 2020 presidential election” and laid out a step-by-step legislative process for doing so. But just weeks ago, you addressed decertification by saying, “It is impossible – it cannot happen. I don’t know how many times I can say that.”

After your Special Counsel made these wild assertions, you did not say a single word to refute them and instead simply thanked Mr. Gableman for his work. Majority Leader Jim Steineke quickly and forcefully spoke out against Mr. Gableman’s latest proposal, but you have failed to say anything at all.

It is extremely disturbing to hear a person who you are paying with taxpayer money spout conspiracy theories and use his status as a former Supreme Court Justice and your Special Counsel to give these debunked ideas credibility. Even prominent members of your own party, like former Senate President Roger Roth, have been publicly critical of Mr. Gableman and his legal theories. You hired Mr. Gableman and handed him hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars to produce a report advocating for illegal efforts to undermine our democracy and throw out the votes of Wisconsinites. It now falls to you to directly and swiftly put an end to this nonsense and fire Mr. Gableman.
No one else has the power to hold Mr. Gableman accountable. You must act. The longer you allow Mr. Gableman to continue his anti-democratic rhetoric, the more dangerous it becomes. We urge you to close the Office of the Special Counsel, fire Mike Gableman, and demonstrate that you are actually ready to move on from the 2020 election.

Rep. Greta Neubauer
Rep. Mark Spreitzer
Rep. Lisa Subeck
Rep. Jodi Emerson
Rep. Jimmy Anderson
Rep. Deb Andraca
Rep. Samba Baldeh
Rep. Jill Billings
Rep. David Bowen
Rep. Marisabel Cabrera
Rep. Sue Conley