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JEFFREY S. THOMPSON  
SOLICITOR GENERAL

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 20, 2022

Victoria Newton  
Executive Secretary  
Executive Council  
State Capitol

Re: Retention of Special Counsel

Dear Victoria:

Our office requests authorization pursuant to Iowa Code section 13.7 to retain Special Counsel to provide legal services and representation to the University of Iowa (the University) with respect to potential litigation arising from the University's public-private partnership for the operation of the campus utility system.

This matter arises from a dispute over what costs are eligible for reimbursement by the University under the terms of the Concession Agreement. The parties are currently pursuing the alternative dispute resolution process set out in the Agreement. This office has determined that it would be in the best interests of both the University and the State to engage Special Counsel with expertise in similar matters and with additional resources to represent the University in this matter should it proceed to litigation.

This office has consulted with the University and we recommend Baird Holm, 1700 Farnam Street Suite 1500, Omaha NE 68102 to act as Special Counsel in this matter. Steve Davidson and David Levy will act as primary counsel for the matter and fees will range from \$430 to \$220 per hour. Fees and associated costs of litigation will be paid by the University.

Accordingly, our office recommends that Baird Holm be approved as Special Counsel.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY S. THOMPSON  
Solicitor General