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March 4, 2005

OPINION LETTER 52-2005

The Hon. Robin Carnahan
Missouri Secretary of State
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center
600 West Main St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Secretary Carnahan:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated February 24, 2005, for our review under Section 116.332, RSMo., of the sufficiency as to form of an initiative petition to amend Article IV, Section 36(a) of the Constitution of Missouri. A copy of the initiative petition that you submitted to this office is attached for reference.

We approve the petition as to form. Section 116.332, RSMo. 2000, however, gives the Secretary of State final authority to approve or reject the petition. Therefore, our approval of the form of the petition does not preclude you from rejecting the petition.

Because our review of the petition is simply for the purpose of determining sufficiency as to form, the fact that we do not reject the petition is not to be construed as a determination that the petition is sufficient as to substance. Likewise, because our review is mandated by statute, no action that we take with respect to such review should be construed as an endorsement of the petition or of the objectives of its proponents, or the expression of any view respecting the adequacy or inadequacy of the petition generally.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", written over a horizontal line.

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
Attorney General