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February 26, 1996

OPINION LETTER NO. 159-96

The Honorable Rebecca McDowell Cook  
Missouri Secretary of State  
State Capitol Building  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Secretary Cook:

This opinion letter is in response to your request for our review under Sections 116.332 and 116.334, RSMo 1994, for sufficiency as to form of an initiative petition relating to the amendment of Article I, Section 3 of the Missouri Constitution. A copy of the initiative petition which you submitted to this office on February 16, 1996, is attached for reference. To distinguish this initiative petition from others submitted on the same topic on the same date, this initiative petition has been designated as C4.

We approve the petition as to form<sup>1</sup>. However, since the Secretary of State has been given final approval or rejection authority under Section 116.332, our approval of the form of the petition does not preclude you from rejecting the petition.

Inasmuch as our review 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, since our review is mandated by statute, no action we take with respect to such review should be construed as an endorsement of

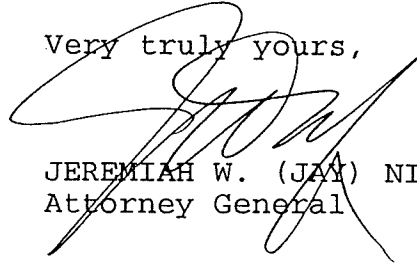
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<sup>1</sup>The initiative petition contains a purported title. Section 116.334 provides for the Secretary of State to prepare the statement of purpose which, unless altered by a court, is the petition title. Our approval of the petition as to form should not be deemed approval of the petition title. We will consider the proposed statement of purpose prepared by your office upon its submission to us as provided by Section 116.334.

The Honorable Rebecca McDowell Cook

the petition or as the expression of any view respecting the adequacy or inadequacy of the petition generally or of the objectives of its proponents.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", written over the typed name below.

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
Attorney General

Enclosure