

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JEFFERSON CITY
65102

P.O. Box 899
(573) 751-3321

December 15, 2000

OPINION LETTER NO. 315-2000

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

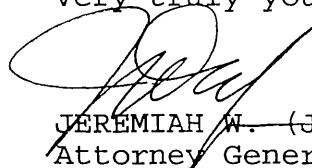
Dear Secretary Cook:

This opinion letter is in response to your request for our review under Section 116.332, RSMo, of the sufficiency as to form of an initiative petition regarding a proposed constitutional amendment, by Husch & Eppenberger, LLC, relating to the Tobacco Settlement, Version 3A. A copy of the initiative petition that you submitted to this office on December 5, 2000, is attached for reference.

We approve the petition as to form. 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 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,



JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
Attorney General

Enclosure