



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

CHRIS KOSTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

January 23, 2012

OPINION LETTER NO. 73-2012

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

Dear Secretary Carnahan:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated January 13, 2012, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Mark Reading regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article X of the Missouri Constitution (version 16). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- allow voters in counties and certain cities to set and control local taxes on cigarettes or tobacco products within their county or city; and
- use the proceeds of such taxes for local job creation, health care, public education, reduction and prevention of tobacco use, or other uses specifically approved by such local voters?

Pursuant to § 116.334, RSMo, we approve the legal content and form of the proposed statement. Because our review of the statement is mandated by statute, no action that we take with respect to such review should be construed

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as an endorsement of the petition, nor as the expression of any view regarding the objectives of its proponents.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Koster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General