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June 4, 2012

OPINION LETTER NO. 123-2012

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:

You have submitted a proposed fair ballot language statement for the initiative petition relating to minimum wage (version 1). The fair ballot language statement, prepared pursuant to § 116.025, RSMo, is as follows:

A “yes” vote will amend Missouri law to increase the state minimum wage to \$8.25 per hour or to the federal minimum wage if that is higher. Every year thereafter, the state wage will be adjusted based on changes in the Consumer Price Index. The amendment will increase the minimum wage for employees who receive tips to 60% of the state minimum wage. The amendment will also modify certain other provisions of the minimum wage law including the retail or service businesses exemption and penalties for paying employees less than the minimum wage.

A “no” vote will not change the current law regarding the state minimum wage.

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If passed, this measure will have no impact on taxes.

Pursuant to § 116.025, we approve the legal content and form of the proposed fair ballot language statement.

Because our review of the fair ballot language statement is mandated by statute, no action we take with respect to such review should be construed as an endorsement of the initiative petition, nor as the expression of any view regarding the objectives of its proponents.

Very truly yours,



**CHRIS KOSTER**  
Attorney General