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June 29, 2012

OPINION LETTER NO. 126-2012

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 June 19, 2012, for our review under § 116.160, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for Senate Joint Resolution No. 51 regarding a proposed amendment to Article V of the Missouri Constitution. The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to change the current nonpartisan selection of supreme court and court of appeals judges to a process that gives the governor increased authority to:

- appoint a majority of the commission that selects these court nominees; and
- appoint all lawyers to the commission by removing the requirement that the governor's appointees be nonlawyers?

Pursuant to § 116.160, 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 Senate joint resolution, nor as the expression of any view regarding the objectives of its proponents.

Very truly yours,



CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General