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September 28, 2015

OPINION LETTER NO. 170-2015

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

Dear Secretary Kander:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated September 18, 2015, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Chuck Hatfield regarding a proposed amendment to amend Chapter 149, Revised Statutes of Missouri, version 1 (2016-079). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall Missouri law be amended to:

- increase taxes on cigarettes in 2017, 2019, and 2021, at which point this additional tax will total 23 cents per pack of 20;
- increase the tax paid by sellers on other tobacco products by 5 percent of manufacturer's invoice price;
- deposit funds generated by these taxes into the state's general revenue fund; and
- repeal these taxes if a measure to increase any tax or fee on cigarettes or other tobacco products

is certified to appear on any local or statewide
ballot?

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

Very truly yours,



CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General