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October 5, 2015

OPINION LETTER NO. 181-2015

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 24, 2015, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Edward Greim regarding a proposed amendment to amend Chapters 210 & 149, Revised Statutes of Missouri, version 5 (2016-085). 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 50 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 a newly established Early Childhood Health and Education Trust Fund; and

- suspend these taxes by the amount of any additional tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products if those taxes are imposed by statewide ballot measure in the same time period?

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