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November 2, 2015

OPINION LETTER NO. 235-2015

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 October 22, 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, 196, & 149, Revised Statutes of Missouri, version 8 (2016-106). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall Missouri law be amended to:

- increase taxes on cigarettes in 2017, at which point the additional tax will total 63 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
- change master tobacco settlement provisions?

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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