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March 13, 2017

OPINION LETTER NO. 183-2017

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

Dear Secretary Ashcroft:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated March 1, 2017, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Marc Ellinger regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article IV of the Missouri Constitution, version 4 (2018-140). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

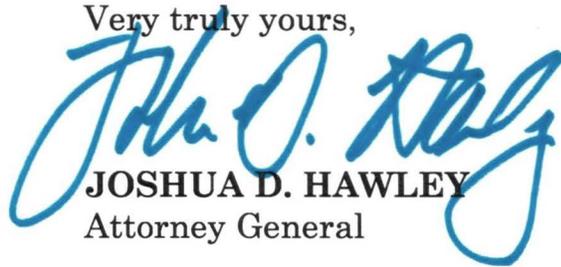
Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to restrict hunting to prohibit the killing of confined big game (such as deer including elk and moose, wild pigs including peccary, bighorn sheep, and other hooved animals); prohibit the importing of big-game species into Missouri except for public zoos, wildlife organizations, or for scientific research; and giving the Missouri Conservation Commission primary regulatory authority over privately owned big-game species?

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

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joshua D. Hawley". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Joshua" being the most prominent part. It is positioned above the printed name and title.

JOSHUA D. HAWLEY
Attorney General