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OPINION LETTER NO. 303-2017

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 April 26, 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 1 (2018-186). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- redefine hunting to exclude privately-owned big game (not fully domesticated hooved animals such as white-tailed deer, elk, moose, boar, and bighorn sheep) confined on preserves;
- exclude privately-owned big game from the right to hunt;
- prohibit transporting big game into or out of Missouri, except licensed confined big game preserves may export for one year, and public zoos, wildlife organizations or scientific

research facilities may import and export indefinitely;

- make big game disease information available to the public; and
- give the Missouri Conservation Commission primary regulatory authority over privately-owned big game?

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,



JOSHUA D. HAWLEY
Attorney General