



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 29, 2012

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson
Michigan Department of State
Lansing, Michigan 48918

Dear Secretary Johnson:

We write to express our interest in insuring that the filing and verification of more than 200,000 initiative petition signatures being delivered to your office today by Michigan Forward in order to seek repeal the Michigan Emergency Manager Law (Public Act 4 of 2011) are handled in a lawful, appropriate, and transparent manner.

Given that the underlying Michigan Emergency Law raises significant questions under the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, as Members of Congress, we believe there is a strong federal interest in insuring that the petitions are processed in a proper manner. Many of the underlying federal interests are identified in an Interim Report issued by Rep. Conyers on Tuesday, February 21, 2012. The Interim Report can be accessed at the following website: http://democrats.judiciary.house.gov/sites/democrats.judiciary.house.gov/files/documents/EM_Report120221F.pdf.

It is our understanding based on Director of Elections Chris Thomas' discussions with Detroit NAACP General Counsel Butch Hollowell, that you will permit as many individuals as are necessary to participate in delivering the petitions. We consider this to be a positive development.

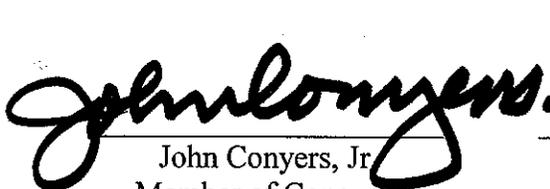
Beyond the delivery of the petitions, we also have a strong interest in guaranteeing that the physical integrity of the signed petitions is maintained at all times during the petition consideration process by your office and by the State Board of Canvassers, and that proper and fully transparent procedures are adhered to during the entire process.

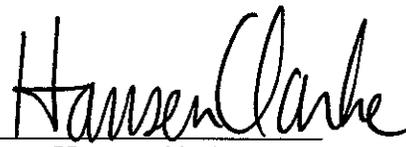
Given the important and time sensitive nature of our request, we would ask that your office and other relevant officials work with us to set up a conference call or meeting this

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morning to discuss these matters. Please contact Rep. Conyers' House Judiciary Committee office at 202-225-6504 at your earliest possible convenience so that we may coordinate.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress


Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress

cc: Eric Holder, United States Attorney General
Barbara McQuade, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan
Michigan State Board of Canvassers