



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

February 29, 2012

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr., Member of Congress  
The Honorable Hansen Clarke, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Gary C. Peters, Member of Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on the Judiciary  
2142 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen:

Secretary Johnson has referred your February 29, 2012 letter to the Bureau of Elections for a response.

As with all initiative and referendum petitions, the Bureau will process the canvass of the referendum petition under the direction of the Board of State Canvassers. We are guided by – and adhere to – Michigan Election Law and procedures adopted by the Board.

The Bureau has a long history of transparently processing petitions giving petition sponsors and challengers access to information on a daily basis, regardless. We are available to review our processes with the filers and any challengers. Additionally, we are available to provide the same review to you or your staff.

The petitions are secured in our Bureau's office in a limited-access area during the day and in a locked room during the evening. It is common for challengers, and sometimes filers, to seek copies of the petitions. We accommodate this by allowing the parties to bring their own copy/scanning equipment to our office, but only after the petition sheets have been reviewed and numbered. All copying and scanning is done under the supervision of Bureau staff.

If there is any further information that would be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 517-373-2540.

Sincerely



Christopher M. Thomas  
Director of Elections

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