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May 7, 2007

Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member Kevin McCarthy
The Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lofgren and Ranking Member McCarthy:

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to improving the security, reliability, and accessibility of our voting systems. Thank you also for inviting us to submit our views to your committee as you consider H.R. 811, the Increased Voter Confidence and Accessibility Act of 2007.

We have been given the opportunity to review the May 4, 2007 draft markup of H.R. 811. Based on our review, we strongly urge you to move forward with this critical legislation, which is needed to make our elections more secure and reliable.

Last year, the Brennan Center Task Force on Voting System Security released a comprehensive study, *The Machinery of Democracy: Protecting Elections in an Electronic World*, which found that the most commonly used electronic voting systems in the United States have serious security and reliability flaws. H.R. 811 will implement many of the Task Force's key recommendations for addressing these flaws. It is extremely important that Congress adopts these measures as soon as possible.

We also strongly urge the committee to reject any amendment that would impose new documentation or voter identification requirements on citizens seeking to register or to vote. Such an amendment would unfairly disenfranchise millions of Americans without advancing any public purpose. There is no reason to raise such a polarizing issue in the context of a common sense bill addressing voting system security.

Sincerely,



Michael Waldman
Executive Director



Lawrence Norden
Chair, Brennan Center Task Force on Voting System Security