February 28, 2017

Mr. Mick Mulvaney
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Mulvaney:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as director of the Office of Management and Budget.

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BILLY WAY, JR.
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MARCI ANDINO
Executive Director

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your support of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). As the chief state election official from South Carolina, I have found the resources and guidance provided by the EAC to be beneficial.

Among the critical duties of the EAC are:
- To create and maintain the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines;
- To accredit voting system test laboratories;
- To create a national program for the testing, certification and decertification of voting systems, and;
- To certify that voting equipment meets the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines.

To this end, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) created the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC). The TGDC is tasked with assisting the EAC in drafting the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines. The TGDC membership consists of the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); 14 members appointed jointly by the EAC and the Director of NIST from the EAC Standards Board, the EAC Board of Advisors, the Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board, a representative of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), a representative of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), two representatives of the National Association of State Election Directors, and other individuals with technical and scientific expertise relating to voting systems and voting equipment.

The Voluntary Voting System Guidelines are a set of minimum specifications and rigorous requirements against which voting systems can be tested to determine if the systems meet required standards. The guidelines address basic functionality, security,

EVERY VOTE MATTERS.
EVERY **VOTE COUNTS.**

reliability, accuracy, and accessibility capabilities. In order for a voting system to receive EAC certification, it must meet all applicable standards.

Forty-seven states, including South Carolina, rely on the EAC's voting system guidelines and/or the testing and certification program. The EAC's voting system guidelines and testing certification program are the gold standard for voting systems and states will simply not use or purchase voting systems to that do not meet them.

In 2014, the bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Administration highlighted the concern that many voting systems throughout the country are aging and are at the end of their operational life.

The EAC and NIST, working with the TGDC, are currently writing the next generation of voting system standards. This work is essential to modernizing and safeguarding the election process. The new standards will allow for the introduction of new innovative voting systems. Without new standards, the voting systems of today will be the voting systems of tomorrow.

It is critical that full funding for the EAC continues so it can complete the critical task of modernizing the voting system standards to guide future generations of voting equipment. The projected timeline for completion of this effort is the summer of 2018.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the assistance the EAC provides election officials in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Marci Andino

/mba