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State of Arizona
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

1616 W Adams - Suite 110 - Phoenix, Arizona 85007 - Tel (602) 364-3477 - Fax (602) 364-3487 - www.azcleanelections.gov

March 16, 2007

Beth Rotman,
Director of Public Campaign Financing
20 Trinity Street, Suite 301
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Registered Voter Requirement

Dear Ms. Rotman:

As you know, Arizona has enjoyed the benefits of a "Clean Elections" system since the 2000 election cycle. While participation has increased every year, I am pleased to report the incidents of fraud, while never frequent, have decreased to virtually nothing. I attribute this trend to the State's ability to bring effective enforcement actions against those who attempt to cheat. This can be found with candidates who used clean elections money inappropriately and also with candidates who attempt to subvert the qualification process by submitting forged "\$5 Contribution forms."

Because candidates who forged signatures were quickly caught and charged, the community is well-aware that cheating is not worthwhile. Essential to our ability to catch cheaters and enforce the law is our ability to efficiently and effectively review the contribution forms. To this end, the requirement that contributors be registered voters is essential. This requirement enables the county election officials to check signatures on forms against the official signatures on file for each registered voter. This method has uncovered several instances of fraud. Without this ability to compare signatures, a number of fraud cases would have slipped through unnoticed.

While these fraud cases were not widespread, even one instance of successful fraud would have significantly undermined our efforts to garner public support of our campaign finance reform efforts. If cheaters can get public money, then what is the point of reform?

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Todd F. Lang