

## **Re: Libertarian party of Connecticut supports HB 6436**

Dear Government And Elections Committee,

I am Andrew Rule and live in Wallingford. I am the Treasurer of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut (LPCT) and I was the Ballot Access Coordinator for LPCT in 2008. In that capacity I managed about two dozen people directly and others indirectly to achieve our efforts for ballot status for Barr/Root, the Libertarian Presidential Ticket. We handed in just short of 13,000 signatures, on 1,796 petition sheets for 144 towns. We were told that we failed to achieve ballot status with only 6,995 valid signatures. Other counts from SOTS told 7,218 valid signatures. (Also, some petition sheets were missing). We decided to recheck the valid signatures and found that over 350 signatures should have been counted. (SOTS disputes some of these things). And, we went to Federal Court to try to over turn this decision, and failed. I am here to represent the LPCT today.

**\*\*Ballot access campaigns are very costly in terms of money, time, and effort especially in facing the possibility of failure. But these costs go up not as an arithmetic progression but a geometric progression. This is because you have to introduce more people into the effort requiring more management into the situation to get the job done, entailing training, steeper learning curve and extra quality control among other things.**

**\*\*As a consequence of this it is harder to find people to commit to projects. Therefore, the pool of capable people diminishes making it difficult and sometimes impossible to gain ballot access for a minor party.**

**\*\*When the demand for a greater number of signatures goes up, the desire and ability for quality goes down. This is because the focus is on number of signatures obtained and not on more conversation with the elector for his consent and encouragement for putting the information on the petition form ACCURATELY and LEGIBLY.**

**\*\*After rechecking the signatures after we were rejected for the ballot, I found a new appreciation for what the town clerks have to endure to validate these signatures. It is a hard job that taxes their resources. From their end the effort to validate signatures for a particular nominating petition goes up geometrically as the number of signatures goes up as well. Part of that is because they have to keep tract of someone signing the petition twice, part of it is organizing the names, but also going back to the petition campaigns themselves, the quality of signatures goes down for the number of signatures going up. I talked with my town clerk, Barbara Kapi, and the thing that she would find most helpful is LEGIBILITY and FILING OUT THE FORMS CORRECTLY. These things a petition drive can and should do if the number of required signatures are fewer. After organizing and keeping tract of signatures to hand in and afterward when they were rejected re-inspecting them with the rejection codes, I have to most heartily agree.**

**\*\*We, the LPCT, therefore support HB 6436; Most especially for the lower threshold for the number of signatures required to gain ballot status. Thank you.**