



Congressman Adrian Smith
320 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 6, 2017

Congressman Smith,

We write you today to ask you, as a member of the Committee on House Administration, to oppose a proposal before your committee, HR 634 the Election Assistance Commission Termination Act. Born as a solution to 2000 election, Election Assistance Commission is necessary to ensure a fair, ethical, and accessible system of elections.

This past year, the Nebraska Legislature, through the Election Technology Committee, evaluated Nebraska's current election equipment and administration, including a discussion on moving Nebraska from a precinct-based model to all-mail elections. Voting systems can suppress voter participation and turnout, the EAC's work to standardize and modernize election administration, including determining which equipment is HAVA compliant, is crucial to ensuring that elections in Nebraska serve and protect every voter.

In 2016 the EAC accredited a new voting system test laboratory to test new voting equipment against voluntary voting system guidelines, but more work needs to be done. It has been almost 10 years since the EAC adopted new voting systems guidelines. The EAC needs to re-evaluate these guidelines in light of the incredible advances in technology and election equipment, for example ensuring that new voting systems have a mechanism for voters to verify their choices before submitting them. So many states, including Nebraska, are about



to invest millions in new election equipment – we need the EAC to research, evaluate, and adopt new guidelines to assist state election officials making these crucial decisions.

In light of the many challenges faced by our state and local election administrators, we believe that it is time to reaffirm our commitment to voting rights, our commitment to fair and accessible elections for all Nebraskans. Strengthening, not terminating, the Election Assistance Commission is the solution. Here in Nebraska we are taking the necessary steps to update our voting systems. Now it is your turn to do your part, oppose HR 634, keep the Election Assistance Commissioner and provide it with the staff and resources it needs to improve the integrity and effectiveness of election administration.

Thank you for your service to Nebraska. Please reach out if you, or your staff, have additional questions on the proposed legislation or our opposition to it.

Sincerely,

Bri McLarty Huppert, Director of Voting Rights, Nebraskans for Civic Reform

Sherry Miller, President, League of Women Voters of Nebraska

Rebecca Gonzales, Equity and Opportunity Coordinator, Nebraska Appleseed

Ann Chalson, Vice President, League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha

Mary Boschult, President, League of Women Voters of Lincoln

cc: Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, Congressman Don Bacon, Senator Deb Fischer, Senator Ben Sasse, Secretary of State John Gale, State Senator John Murante.