

**ZAKHEM LAW**

*Attorneys and Counselors at Law*

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**MAR 18 2011**

**ELECTIONS/LICENSING  
SECRETARY OF STATE**



March 16, 2011

Scott Gessler  
Secretary of State  
1700 Broadway, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80290

Re: Rulemaking Hearing of March 31, 2011

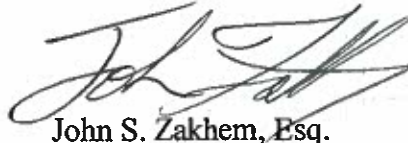
Dear Mr. Secretary:

I would like to extend my regrets for not being in attendance for this Rulemaking Hearing, but prior engagements occupy my time. This letter will have to serve as my testimony in lieu of my attendance. Please enter this letter into the record for the Rulemaking Hearing scheduled for March 31, 2011.

I have reviewed the Preliminary Draft of Proposed Rules distributed on February 28, 2011 and I find them to be well thought out and necessary changes to the existing Secretary of State's Election Rules. As we are all aware, every election cycle new lawsuits spring to life alleging violations of various election laws and rules. These proposed changes will go a long way towards clarifying the vagaries that currently exist in the Rules, and will serve as one small step in the right direction to keep our state's organizations and candidates from being dragged into court. The people of Colorado want a clear and efficient process for conducting elections and circulating petitions, and I believe these proposed rules will help achieve that end.

I stand in favor of these proposed changes.

Sincerely,  
**ZAKHEM LAW, LLC**



John S. Zakhem, Esq.