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May 19, 2008

Commissioner Rosemary Rodriguez
Election Assistance Commission
1225 New York Ave., NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez,

It is my understanding that the Election Assistance Commission will be meeting this Thursday and among the topics on the agenda will be the question of modifying the Advisory Opinion 07-003-A regarding Maintenance of Effort (MOE). I would like to offer for your consideration the viewpoint of Colorado Clerk and Recorders.

HAVA funds distributed to Colorado Counties through our Secretary of State were used for one-time, capital expenditures for election equipment. In addition, some monies were made available to help counties reach accessibility requirements for polling locations. But as with equipment purchases, these were for one-time efforts, not to offset ongoing expenditures for elections efforts.

Equipment purchases have not decreased county spending. In fact, quite the contrary has occurred. Costs for maintenance, license fees, and administrative support have only increased. No Colorado County has reduced its budget for elections since the enactment of HAVA. To require counties to report MOE, at least in Colorado, is an unnecessary expenditure of time and effort.

Please support relieving local jurisdictions of the MOE reporting burdens.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Nancy Amick, President
Colorado County Clerks Association