

May 21, 2008

Tom Wilkey  
Executive Director  
U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
1225 New York Ave. NW – Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Wilkey:

We are writing for two purposes.

First, we request that the Election Assistance Commission accept our April 29, 2008 letter opposing Commissioner Hunter's proposal to withdraw maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements from county and local governments under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) into the record of the Commission's hearing tomorrow on this subject. A copy of that letter is attached.

Second, we would like to register our concern that the Commission provided very short public notice of the hearing tomorrow. Seven days, including a weekend, is simply not enough notice to the public.

As you know, many of our organizations have been raising the importance of public notice with the Commission for some time. We have voiced concern that policy opinions have been issued by staff and tally votes have been held by the Commission without public notice or comment. In testimony last September, the importance of public notice and comment was discussed. In commenting on the Commission's recent proposal on advisory opinions, concern was expressed both about the short notice for the proposal and the limited, 10-day, comment period in the proposal itself. Now, the Commission is holding a hearing with seven-day notice. We hope and trust that the Commission is not developing a pattern of providing very limited notice to the public on critical issues.

Thank you for receiving our request and comment and we ask that you transmit them to the members of the Commission.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
Asian American Justice Center  
Demos  
FairVote  
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)  
People for the American Way