Mona Harrington, Acting Executive Director
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
1335 East-West Highway, Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Harrington:

The purpose of this letter is to certify that the state of Minnesota will use the funds provided under the Notice of Grant Award, Agreement # MN20101CARES, for activities consistent with the laws described in Section 906 of HAVA and will not use the funds in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirements of Title III of HAVA.

We further certify that we have reviewed and accept the terms of the award as specified in the Notice of Grant Award. We do not yet have (and apparently will not have until December, 2020) a UEI number; our DUNS number is 803888098. The signed certifications are enclosed with this letter.

We are requesting $6,930,610. There is currently a peacetime emergency in Minnesota in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Minnesota has an extremely high turnout, usually first in the nation, with approximately 3 million voters normally expected to vote in person during a presidential election. Statewide elections in Minnesota require in excess of 30,000 election judges for proper administration, many of who are typically seniors, a group most at risk for developing severe complications from COVID-19.

We will use the funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for the 2020 Federal election cycle. Primarily, but not exclusively, Minnesota will use these funds not only to fortify polling places but also to promote voting from home and early voting.

Minnesota has deadlines soon for auditor training, election judge training, vendor contracting, and the June 26, 2020 start of absentee voting for the statewide primary on August 11, 2020. While we are not yet sure of the precise system Minnesota will be implementing (pending legislative outcomes), we are confident that the final course will involve a heavy increase in mail usage for vote from home voting. Expenses related to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic include, but are not limited to: postage; increased absentee ballot applications, ballot and
envelope printing and other costs; personal protective equipment at polling places, for both election judges and voters; new or substitute polling places; additional election judges to implement curbside voting; temporary election administration staff at counties/cities; and statewide voter education and outreach initiatives.

As you may know from prior grants, most recently our Election Security Grants Disbursement Request letter dated January 22, 2020, the state of Minnesota has a different process than most other states, as Minnesota Statutes, section 5.30 requires that no HAVA expenditures may be made without an appropriation by law, and so it is premature at this time to identify the precise uses of the funds.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Bibi Black at 651-201-1326 or bibi.black@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Steve Simon
Secretary of State of Minnesota

Cc. Kinza Ghaznavi, Grants Manager