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November 22, 2010

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REPLY TO MINNEAPOLIS

Honorable Mark Ritchie secretary.state@state.mn.us
180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re:

Draft Recount Plan for the 2010 General Election

Dear Secretary of State Ritchie:

I am writing to you as Chair and representative of the Minnesota State Canvassing Board regarding the Draft Recount Plan for the General Election, November 2, 2010. On behalf of Mark Dayton, I renew our request made at the November 5, 2010, meeting among representatives of the Office of the Secretary of State and the Dayton and Emmer campaigns as follows: that the Secretary of State publicly and daily report the "call at the table" (i.e., the table official's determination of the voter's intent) for all challenged ballots. This will reduce the incentive to make frivolous challenges to create the appearance that one party or the other is making substantial gains in the hand recount. Many experts believe that the failure to make such a daily report on "calls at the table" contributed to the volume of challenges in the 2008 U.S. Senate recount. Granting our request will result in no additional burden because the information necessary to report the "call at the table" will be collected pursuant to current draft Procedure No. 11, which requires that the reasons for challenges, including the initial call at the table, be recorded on the challenged ballot.

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We respectfully request an opportunity to be heard regarding this important issue at the November 23, 2010, meeting of the State Canvassing Board, and that you provide copies of this letter to the other members of the Board. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.P.

Charles N. Nauen

c: Via E-Mail:

Bert Black

Gary Poser

Beth Fraser

Claire Wilson

Al Gilbert

Christie Eller

John Aiken

Michael Toner

Eric Magnuson

Tony Trimble

Ken Martin

Marc Elias

Kevin Hamilton

David Lillehaug

William Gengler