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STATE OF ALASKA
Division of Elections
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Bob Buch
Representative
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representative Buch:

Your office requested that I provide you with information to address issues raised by Representative Gatto, as written in the February 18, 2010 memorandum to Tom Wright.

House Bill 115 does not change what is required in order to receive a by-mail ballot. The application requirements currently in statute will continue to apply.

The processing of the application, mailing of the ballot and subsequent ballot review will continue to be done in accordance with existing division policy, regulation and statutes.

The division has not had any documented cases of voter fraud associated with voting by mail and does not believe this bill will change that. The bill has provisions that remove a voter from receiving by mail ballots - if their ballot is returned undeliverable or per the process established in 15.20.085(i).

The division has existing policies and procedures in place to protect the absentee process from election tampering. This bill will not increase the risk for election tampering. All absentee ballots that are voted and returned to the division are reviewed by a bi-partisan board that validates the voter's eligibility to have cast the ballot and ensures that all statutory requirements have been met.

Similarly the division already has in place an enforcement framework that provides for the witnessing of by-mail ballots and the requirement to provide an identifier unique to the voter.

The Honorable Bob Buch
February 24, 2010
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If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Fenumiai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "F".

Gail Fenumiai
Director

cc: Sarah Felix, Asst. Attorney General
Department of Law

John Cramer, Chief of Staff
Office of the Lieutenant Governor