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Utah State Legislature

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May 30, 2012

Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart, Chair
President Michael G. Waddoups, Vice Chair
Legislative Management Committee
State Capitol Complex
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Subject: Seeking permission to study items during 2012 Interim

Dear President Waddoups and Speaker Lockhart:

As chairs of the Government Operations Interim Committee, we have selected the following items from those assigned by the Legislative Management Committee for study during the 2012 Interim:

- **Absentee Ballot Deadlines** - to study whether the deadline for absentee ballot postmarks should be adjusted in light of service cutbacks at the post office.
- **Anonymous Campaign Contributions** - to study whether to prohibit anonymous campaign contributions and how a candidate should handle an anonymous contribution (1st Sub. H.B. 493).
- **Campaign Fund Use** - to study whether county, municipal, and service district candidates should be restricted in the personal use of campaign funds similar to state office candidates.
- **Candidate Replacement** - to study whether the candidate replacement deadline should be changed to better match other election deadlines.
- **Election Code Changes** - to study and review the annual list of election code policy and clean-up issues.
- **Election Dates** - to study whether special elections and primary municipal elections should be held on the same day.
- **Emergency Authority for Election Official** - to study whether, during a period of a declared emergency where a short time frame for ballot transmission exists, the chief election officer should have authority to designate alternative methods for handling absentee ballots to ensure that all voters, including military and overseas voters, have the opportunity to vote.
- **Political Party Affiliation** - to study whether the Legislature wishes to amend or delete the deadline for declaring political party affiliation.
- **Surplus Property Service** - to study the privatization of surplus property service.
- **Uniform Code References** - to study amendments to the Utah Code to ensure uniformity in referencing department and division heads.
- **Unregistered Voter Ballots** - to study the counting of provisional ballots of

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certain unregistered voters (H.B. 145).

In addition to the Master Study Resolution items listed above, we request permission to study the following:

- **Boards and Commissions** -- to continue last year's study of the various boards and commissions created in state government, determine which entities continue to meet and serve the public purposes for which they were created, identify those that seldom meet or otherwise may no longer fulfill the public purposes for which they were created, and make recommendations regarding which boards and commissions should be considered for repeal
- **Benchmarking Services** -- to study whether it would be cost-beneficial for the Department of Administrative Services to contract for benchmarking services for accounting and other areas.

We appreciate your consideration of these items for study by the committee.

Sincerely,



Peter C. Knudson,
Senate Chair
Government Operations
Interim Committee



Kraig Powell,
House Chair
Government Operations
Interim Committee