

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

Via E-Mail Only

March 22, 2010

Mark W. Abbott, Ph.D.
Director of Grants
United States Election Assistance Commission
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Abbott:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Election Assistance Commission (EAC)'s draft Maintenance of Effort (MOE) policy. Wisconsin is pleased to see that the EAC has been responsive to the concerns of the states and developed a fair and balanced draft MOE policy. We believe this draft policy is workable, but we do have two comments for your consideration.

In Question #7, we wish to emphasize that MOE should only include expenditures to "improve" the administration of federal elections, not simply "maintain" them. We are concerned that a broad reading of this language would overstate the amount a state spent in the base year by sweeping up the necessary expenses for administration of the entire election instead of just those expenses directly linked to the improvement of the administration of elections for Federal office.

In Question #8, we were somewhat confused by the language, "Once your plan is received, EAC's grant department will work with your State to develop your MOE plan." Is the MOE plan that a state submits by December 1, 2010 intended only as a draft plan? Wisconsin looks forward to further details on this process and what technical assistance may be offered this summer.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin J. Kennedy".

Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

cc: Nathaniel E. Robinson
Elections Division Administrator
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board