



August 30, 2019

*Via regular U.S. Mail and Email*

Ohioans Against Corporate Bailouts  
c/o Brandon Lynaugh, Treasurer  
8913 Cincinnati-Dayton Road  
West Chester, Ohio 45069

**Re: Submitted Petition for a Referendum on Am. Sub. H.B. 6**

Dear Mr. Lynaugh:

On August 16, 2019, you filed with my office a written petition seeking a referendum on Am. Sub. H.B. 6 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. Your filing contained: (1) a copy of Am. Sub. H.B. 6; (2) a purported summary of the same measure; and (3) 99 part-petitions containing 2,246 signatures.

In Ohio's Constitution, the people delegated some legislative power to the General Assembly, but the people reserved to themselves the powers of initiative and referendum. Ohio Constitution, Article II, Sections 1, 1a, 1b, and 1c. The Ohio Supreme Court has consistently held that the powers of initiative and referendum must be liberally construed in favor of the people's ability to exercise those powers of self-government. "The constitutional right of citizens to referendum is of paramount importance." *State ex rel. Ohio General Assembly v. Brunner*, 115 Ohio St. 3d 103, 104 (2007). Courts must strictly construe the three exceptions to the right of referendum contained in Ohio Constitution Article II, Section 1d. *State ex rel. LetOhioVote.org v. Brunner*, 123 Ohio St. 3d 322, 329 (2009). The right of the people to utilize the referendum must not be denied "unless the act in question is plainly and persuasively included within one of the three classes [of legislation] excepted from the operation of the referendum." *State ex rel. Keller v. Forney*, 108 Ohio St. 463, 467-68 (1923).

As set forth in the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Constitution, at this stage in the referendum process, my obligation is to: (1) determine whether the referendum petition contains at least 1,000 valid signatures of Ohio electors, and (2) compare the text in the petition of the measure to be referred with the text in the enrolled act on file in my office to determine whether the text in the petition is correct. R.C. 3519.01(B)(2). If I conclude that there are 1,000 valid signatures and that the text in the petition correctly matches the text in the enrolled act, then I must certify as such within ten business days of our receipt of the petition. In this instance, the tenth business day falls on today, Friday, August 30, 2019.

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Therefore, without passing on the advisability of the approval or rejection of the measure to be referred at this time, but pursuant to the duties imposed upon me as Secretary of State, I hereby certify that:

- (1) The county boards of elections to which your part-petitions were referred for signature verification have reported to me that the part-petitions contained more than 1,000 valid signatures of Ohio electors; and
- (2) The text of the entire bill you submitted in the petition matches the text of the enrolled version of Am. Sub, H.B. 6 on file in my office.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose  
Ohio Secretary of State

cc: Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost