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One Hundred Eighteenth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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November 3, 2023

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Government Administration and Elections
Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2200
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Derek Slap
Vice Chair
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Senator Robert Sampson
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Representative Amy Morrin Bello
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Representative Gale Mastrofrancesco
Ranking Member
Government Administration and Elections
Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2200
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Representatives and Senators:

I serve as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration (“Committee”) which has broad oversight over our nation’s federal elections.¹ I am aware of a controversy in Connecticut with respect to ballot chain-of-custody issues and that the legislature has appointed an election monitor to oversee this problem.² Now that a Superior Court judge has ordered a replacement election, the importance of an election monitor moving forward is even greater.³

As you may know, allegations like these are not uncommon and have also affected federal elections. Following the 2018 Midterm Election, a candidate who appeared to receive the largest number of votes did not take a seat in the U.S. House in large part because of ballot harvesting tactics similar to those portrayed allegedly in the

¹ Rules of the United States House of Representatives, Rule X, Clause 1(k)(12), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules118.house.gov/files/documents/Rules%20and%20Resources/118- House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>.

² Christopher Keating, *CT legislature approves election monitor to combat absentee ballot fraud*, Hartford Courant (Sept. 26, 2023), <https://www.courant.com/2023/09/26/house-approves-election-monitor-in-bridgeport-to-combat-absentee-ballot-fraud/>.

³ *Gomes v. Clemons*, Superior Court, judicial district of Fairfield, Docket No. CV-23-6127336-S (Nov. 1, 2023), available at <https://civlinquiry.jud.ct.gov/DocumentInquiry/DocumentInquiry.aspx?DocumentNo=26199518>.

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video.⁴ For this and other reasons, the Committee is engaged in an ongoing study into this matter to help bolster all Americans' confidence in our elections.⁵

Given our shared interest in this issue and Connecticut's role as the primary authority over all elections and elections law in the state, I respectfully request that you keep the Committee informed and apprised of the progress of any investigatory work by the Government Administration and Elections Committee or the appointed election monitor so that we may share in any knowledge gained. Further, we stand ready to assist in any useful way.

Please direct all correspondence and any questions you might have to Caleb Hays, General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director, at Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration

BGS/ad

⁴ Felicia Sonmez, Eli Rosenberg, *Hoyer says House will not seat a North Carolina Republican amid questions about integrity of election*, Washington Post (Dec. 28, 2018), https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/with-congressional-race-in-limbo-north-carolina-dissolves-state-elections-board/2018/12/28/ad09dedc-0abb-11e9-88e3-989a3e456820_story.html.

⁵ See e.g., American Confidence in Elections Act, H.R. 4563, 118th Cong. § 1 (2023).