

To whom it may concern:

The bearer of this letter is engaging in petitioning to place political candidates on the ballot. Petitioning is a constitutionally protected First Amendment right.

The right to petition in public places, including but not limited to public transportation facilities, government office buildings, public parks, public colleges and universities, "common areas" of private shopping centers and the sidewalks in front of stores, has been consistently upheld by courts up to and including the U.S. Supreme Court.

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that ballot access petition circulation is "core political speech," for which First Amendment protection is "at its zenith." *Meyer v. Grant*, 486 U.S. 414, 422, 425 (1988).

This ruling protects the right to circulate ballot access petitions against infringement by state and local ordinances, statutes, codes or regulations, as long as petitioners are orderly in their process.

Additional Supreme Court decisions affirming the right to petition in public spaces include, but are not limited to:

- Buckley v. American Constitutional Law Foundation, Inc., 525 U.S. 182 (1999)
- Pruneyard Shopping Center v. Robins, 447 U.S. 74 (1980)

Please cease any and all interference with the lawful and constitutionally protected activities of this petitioner.

Should you have any questions, please call me at 202-333-0008 x 231. Thank you.

Robert Kraus

**Director of Operations** 

Robert Oraus

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