

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Jared Polis
State Capitol Bldg.
200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 136
Denver, CO 80203

Sent via email

Cc: Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold
Ian Rayder
Reese Edwards
Lisa Kaufmann
Eve Lieberman
Kachina Weaver

Dear Governor Polis:

First and foremost, thank you for your leadership, hard work and care for Colorado during this pandemic. We know these unprecedented times create new and different challenges every day, including challenges related to our ballot process and signature gathering. We believe any changes made to our ballot process must be in line with our Constitution, must protect our election process from fraud, and must ensure equitable access for all citizens – electronic signature gathering doesn't meet these criteria.

The current process outlined in Colorado's Constitution requiring that voter signatures be collected in person was set in place by the people of Colorado, and any changes to that process can be made only by the people of Colorado. Specifically, here's the language that the citizens of Colorado have placed in our Constitution:

"The first power hereby reserved by the people is the initiative, and **signatures** by registered electors in an amount equal to at least five percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for the office of secretary of state at the previous general election shall be required to propose any measure by petition, and every such petition shall include the full text of the measure so proposed ...

"The petition shall consist of **sheets having such general form printed or written at the top thereof** as shall be designated or prescribed by the secretary of state; **such petition shall be signed** by registered electors in their own proper persons only, to which shall be attached the residence address of such person and the **date of signing the same**. To each of such petitions, **which may consist of one or more sheets**, to **shall be attached an affidavit** of some registered elector that each **signature thereon is the signature of the person whose name it purports be** and that, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the affiant, **each of the persons signing said petition was, at the time of signing**, a registered elector. **Such petition so verified** shall be prima facie evidence that **the signatures thereon are genuine and true and that the persons signing the same are registered electors.**"

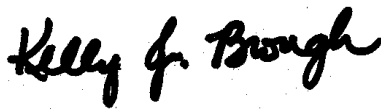
Electronic signature gathering does not comply with the law – our state's Constitution.

Further, we know that not every citizen has access to participate in electronic signature gathering, creating huge inequities with parts of our state that have less access and with demographics who we know have more limited access to internet for various reasons. A significant number of Colorado voters – including as many as 85,000 rural households – have little to no access to internet that would enable them to sign petitions electronically. All registered voters must have access to the process for any of us to accept that it is a fair and equitable system. This notion isn't negotiable in a democracy.

Electronic signature gathering would also be more susceptible to voter fraud, jeopardizing our state's hard earned and well-managed election process. As other states grapple with election fraud, Colorado ranked 10th on electoral integrity following the 2016 election, according to the Electoral Integrity Project. Electronic signature gathering would threaten that integrity and likely cast doubt on our elections generally. Voters must be confident that any issue or candidate who earns a place on the ballot earned that opportunity fairly.

We ask that you continue to honor the current and clear law governing signature collection as voters outlined in our Constitution. And, if you or others would believe those rules should be changed, that you propose such a change to the voters of the state who are the only group authorized to change our Constitution.

Sincerely,



Kelly Brough
President and CEO
Denver Metro Chamber of
Commerce



Christian Reece
Executive Director
Club 20



Steve Wooten
President
Colorado Cattlemen's
Association



Sara Blackhurst
President
Action 22



Tyrone Adams
President/CEO
Colorado Association of
Realtors



Loren R. Furman
Senior Vice President,
State & Federal Relations
Colorado Chamber of
Commerce



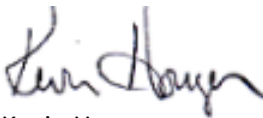
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Tim Jackson
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Colorado Competitive
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Dan Haley
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Executive Officer
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Association

Joyce R. Kelly
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