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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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October 19, 2012

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ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

JAMIE FLEET, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Charlie Judd Chairman State Board of Elections Washington Building First Floor 1100 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Kimberly Bowers Vice-Chairman State Board of Elections Washington Building First Floor 1100 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Chairman and Madame Vice-Chairman:

As we approach Election Day, I know that the pressure on Virginia's State Board of Elections is intense. That is why I was so pleased to hear that, when an attempt to feloniously destroy voter registration cards was prevented in Harrisonburg earlier this week, you acted swiftly to protect the voting rights of eligible Virginians by instructing Rockingham County Voter Registrar Doug Geib to process the registration forms. It would have been a tragedy if those eligible voters were denied their registration because of the criminal actions of another.

I want to ensure that similar protections are extended to all Virginians who completed voter registration forms in good faith and full compliance with the law. While the Rockingham County Sheriff has reportedly found "no indication that this activity was widespread in our jurisdiction", there is reason to fear that these registration forms were not the only ones someone attempted to interdict. Similar allegations of fraud have been leveled against the same company for which the man arrested last night worked in Florida and other states. That company is tied to a man who has been repeatedly accused of organizing similar destruction of voter registration forms in states across the country and in elections stretching back to 2004.

For these reasons, I write to ask whether the State Board of Elections has considered how it would handle any voter registration forms that may be found between now and Election Day. It was very fortunate that a conscientious Virginian happened to see this attempt at voter registration fraud, discovered the nature of the fraud, and that the officers were able to bring the forms to the registrars before the deadline. If this investigation should turn up additional

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registration forms that were destroyed, how will you decide whether those Virginians are allowed to vote?

I thank you for your work on behalf of the people of Virginia and your efforts to ensure that Virginia's elections run smoothly and according to the law. I look forward to hearing from you and my staff would happily work with yours as may prove appropriate.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Gonzale

Ranking Member Subcommittee on Elections

CG:cr