

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

July 7, 2011

United States Senator Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

On behalf of the Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA), we are writing to express our concern about your letter dated June 29, 2011 addressed to Attorney General Holder regarding voter ID legislation passed in several states. You requested that the Department of Justice investigate voter ID legislation which you alleged has “the potential to block millions of eligible American voters without addressing any problem...”

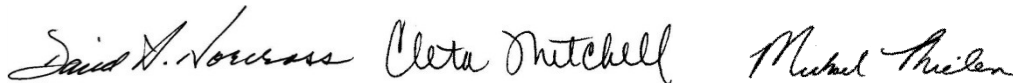
The Rhode Island legislature, which has a majority of Democrats, passed voter ID legislation. Yesterday, Governor Lincoln Chafee, an independent and one of your former colleagues, signed the bill into law. This bill would require voters to show identification at the polls in 2012 and a photo before casting a ballot in 2014.

Senator Harold Metts (D – District 6, Providence), a minority and member of your political party, was the sponsor of this voter ID bill in the Rhode Island Senate. Confronted with reports of fraud at several Providence polling locations, he proposed a voter ID in Rhode Island. He has said, “Fraud has gone unchallenged and ignored, and it must be stopped.”

In the Rhode Island House, Democratic House Speaker Gordon D. Fox and Jon Brien co-sponsored the bill along with Republicans.

You should ensure that elections are open, fair and honest by joining Senator Metts, Speaker Fox, Representative Brien, and other Rhode Island Democrats in supporting voter ID legislation, and abandon your baseless assertions that voter ID violates civil rights laws.

Sincerely,



David Norcross
Chairman

Cleta Mitchell
President

Michael Thielen
Executive Director



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cc: Senators Bennet, Durbin, Schumer, Gillibrand, Brown, Shaheen, Merkley, Begich, Cardin, Landrieu, Murray, Wyden, Harkin, Kohl and Udall