## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BALLOT LAW COMMISSION

Petition

Of

RECEIVED

Howard Wilson (Kahn matter)

SEP 2 0 2002

BLC-2002-3

NEW HAMPSHIRE SECRETARY OF STATE

On September 13, 2002, the Ballot Law Commission ("the Commission") held a public hearing on a petition filed by Howard Wilson on behalf of Richard Kahn.

Mr. Wilson testified at the hearing that Richard Kahn was seeking nomination by petition, pursuant to RSA 655:40, to be included on the General Election Ballot as a candidate for Executive Council, District Four. According to Mr. Wilson, the supervisors of the checklists in Bedford rejected 84 nomination signatures, so Mr. Kahn did not have the required number of signatures and therefore was unable to be certified as a candidate. Mr. Wilson testified that although the nomination petitions were disqualified by the supervisors of the checklist the members wrote on the petitions "not registered," but still proceeded to sign in the certification square as if the petitions were valid. Mr. Wilson maintains the certification should not have occurred and that the petitions should have been returned to Mr. Kahn, unsigned by the supervisors.

Mr. Wilson expressed concern that the supervisors of the checklists did not adequately or properly certify a number of signatures on the petitions. Mr. Wilson stated his

RSA 655:41, should give greater care when reviewing the nomination signatures. The Commission urges the supervisors of checklists statewide, perhaps through further education from the Secretary of State's Office, to make reasonable effort to protect each and every potential candidate and voter to support the candidate of their choice, through the nomination process, by carefully evaluating and reviewing the signatures on nomination papers prior to making a determination as to their validity.

NEW HAMPSHIRE BALLOT LAW COMMISSION

Date: 9/20/02

By:

Gary B. Richardson, Chairman Hugh Gregg, Commissioner Emily Gray Rice, Commissioner

195039