

Hammond Congress

July 11, 1996

New Hampshire Ballot Law Commission
Secretary of State
The State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

TO: The members of the New Hampshire State Ballot Law
Commission and the Secretary of State

Last Friday, I filed a petition with the state Ballot Law Commission, challenging the primary petitions of Democrat congressional candidate Arnie Arnesen.

I believed -- and I continue to believe -- that a majority of the Arnesen petitions were not signed by registered Democrats in the Second District, were improperly completed, or were improperly notarized. We are today submitting a list of improper petitions for the purpose of giving interested members an independent basis for judging the validity of our claims, should they wish to do so.

Having said that, I also made a promise to the commission and to Mrs. Arnesen. To quote from my letter to her:

... If you are willing to commit publicly to the voters of the Second District of New Hampshire that you will voluntarily comply with the \$250,000 spending limit in the general election after I win the primary, it would be our intention to withdraw this complaint.

Since that time, Mrs. Arnesen has apparently committed on three occasions to comply with the \$250,000 spending limit after I win the nomination: once to the Union Leader, once to the Concord Monitor, and once to WMUR TV.

We had hoped to get a slightly more definitive commitment.

But yesterday, the Ballot Law Commission ruled that it was without jurisdiction to order Mrs. Arnesen to comply with the spending cap. Rather, according to the commission, our only recourse would be to seek to have her name removed

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from the ballot. That, I have said repeatedly, I will not do.

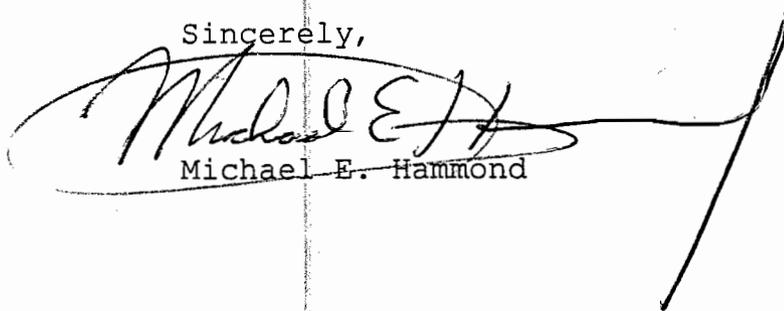
Therefore, I am today accepting Mrs. Arnesen's pledge to comply with the voluntary spending cap and withdrawing my challenge to her petitions.

While it is true that Mrs. Arnesen's pledge has no legal effect, the voters of the Second District will supervise her compliance and will serve as the judge and jury in the event of breach. We could ask for no wiser arbiter.

Repeatedly, I have pledged to conduct a campaign centered around vigorous discussion of the issues. It is now time to put away procedural wrangling and return to those issues.

I appreciate the willingness of the commission to hear our complaint and the unfailing courtesy which the commission and the Secretary of State have accorded our campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Hammond", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a long, sweeping flourish that extends to the right and then curves back down. The name "Michael E. Hammond" is printed in a standard serif font directly below the signature.

Michael E. Hammond