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11 Standish Way
Amherst, NH 03031

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MAR 26 1997
NEW HAMPSHIRE
SECRETARY OF STATE

25 March 1997

Ballot Law Commission
% Secretary of State
State House
Concord, NH

Dear Commissioners:

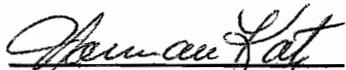
We hereby request that the election held on March 11, 1997 for the Amherst School District, and recounted by the Board of Recount on March 20, 1997 be set aside and a new election be held.

The reason for this petition is as follows:

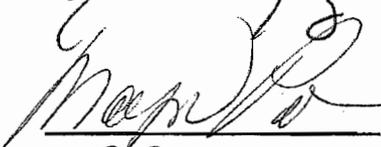
1. An illegal "sample" ballot was placed in the ballot box. This ballot was not signed by Louise Marley, the Amherst School District Clerk. Our concern is that with the inclusion of this illegal ballot the total count of all the ballots exactly matches the tally of the voter check-in list, that a legal ballot may have been removed and replaced with the illegal one.
2. The initial Absentee ballots that were distributed contained only one box, neither labeled "YES" nor "NO" on the question pertaining to adoption of the petitioned Article concerning Budget Ballot voting, commonly referred to as Senate Bill 2. As a result a number of the ballots were not counted as the intent of the voter was uncertain. A new election with unflawed ballots will permit the voters the opportunity to have their selection recorded.
3. A total of eleven ballots were questioned for clarity. The Board of Recount made decision on three of the ballots. The remaining ballots were considered as "non-votes" even though it was clear that there was an attempt by the voter to provide a vote. It was appropriate that these votes should have been included in the total of votes cast. Since it was necessary for the petition's article to win by 60% in the affirmative, these five votes added to the total would change the result of the election.

A new election would not directly be of benefit to the signers of this petition, but to the public at large. It would remove the uncertainty of an illegal ballot, and clear the uncertainty of the intent of the voters who had faulty absentee ballots and would provide clarity on the determination of the number of votes cast.

Signed as aggrieved voters in the Amherst School District:



Norman Katz,
Member of the Board of Recount.
11 Standish Way, Amherst, NH 03031



Marilyn Peterman,
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C. George Bower,
183 Mack Hill Rd., Amherst, NH 03031