

Randolph "Rip" Holden
36 First Ave.
Goffstown, New Hampshire 03045

July 6, 2004

The Honorable William M Gardner
Secretary of State
Room 2304, Statehouse
Concord, New Hampshire

RE: RSA 655:14-b, Use of Nicknames on Ballots

Dear Secretary Gardner:

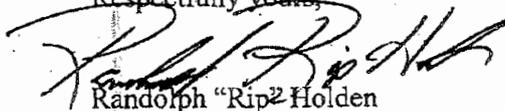
I am writing you regarding the use of nicknames on the ballot. As you know anyone who remotely knows me refers to me as "Rip" rather than Randolph. You and your office allowed me the privilege in the past to be placed on the ballot as Randolph "Rip" Holden and I have always been truly thankful.

It is my understanding this election year there has been request to the Attorney General's office for clarification on RSA 655:14b. Although, attorney Orville "Bud" Fitch's advice to your office maybe technically correct, it is my opinion that his recommendation fails to take into account the authors' of the bill intent.

For that reason I am asking for a hearing before the Ballot Law Commission. I understand the difficult position you and your office is in and I look forward to resolving this issue.

Please feel free to contact me at my home 497-4347, cell 660-0400 or e-mail me at ripholden@msn.com. I hope we can work to solve this issue quickly as not to create any future confusion

Respectfully yours,



Randolph "Rip" Holden