Washington State Legislature

July 27, 2023

Secretary of State Steve Hobbs
Legislative Building
416 Sid Snyder Avenue SW
Olympia, WA 98501

Attorney General Bob Ferguson
1125 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Secretary Hobbs and Attorney General Ferguson:

We write with great concern about a potential threat to the integrity of the democratic process here in Washington – specifically, activities to hinder Washington citizens attempting to sign referenda petitions.

Brandi Kruse, a well-known and highly respected political reporter, recently wrote to Secretary Hobbs to express her concern about these reported actions. In her letter, she details several incidents that appear to be illegal as per RCW 29A.84.250(4), which states:

“Every person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor who… (4) Interferes with or attempts to interfere with the right of any voter to sign or not to sign an initiative or referendum petition or with the right to vote for or against an initiative or referendum measure by threats, intimidation, or any other corrupt means or practice.”

As the Secretary of State’s Office has the duty to protect the sanctity of our elections, and it is the prime responsibility of the Attorney General’s Office to defend state law, we request that you investigate those who are reportedly involved in organizing and carrying out the incidents described by Ms. Kruse.
This letter was prepared using state resources. It in no way endorses or encourages any particular referenda. Its sole purpose is to encourage a thorough and nonpartisan investigation of potentially illegal activity to interfere with the people’s power of referendum through harassment and intimidation.

Washington has a proud history of participatory democracy, and we are deeply concerned about threats to our state’s democratic process – especially when those threats appear to be based on ideology or partisanship. We hope you will give this matter the serious consideration it deserves.

Respectfully,

Senator John Braun
Senate Republican Leader
LD 20

Representative Drew Stokesbary
House Republican Leader
LD 31

Senator Judy Warnick
LD 13

Rep. Paul Harris
LD 17

Rep. Jacquelin Maycumber
LD 7

Senator Keith Wagoner
LD 39

Senator Shelly Short
LD 7

Rep. Dan Griffey
LD 35

Senator Chris Gildon
LD 25

Rep. Mike Steele
LD 12

Senator Ron Muzzall
LD 10
Senator Lynda Wilson  
LD 17

Rep. Mike Volz  
LD 6

Rep. Jim Walsh  
LD 19

Rep. Kevin Waters  
LD 17

Rep. Skyler Rude  
LD 16

Senator Jim McCune  
LD 2

Cc: James Troyer, Chief of Staff – Senate Republican Caucus  
Lisa Fenton, Chief of Staff – House Republican Caucus