



TABITHA M. LEHMAN, ELECTION COMMISSIONER

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March 12, 2019

Representative Bill Sutton
Chair, House Elections Committee

Re: Substitute Senate Bill 130, signatures on advance ballots

Chairman Sutton and Distinguished Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you in support of Substitute Senate Bill 130. I believe that it is important that Senate Bill 130 be passed to allow voters to cure deficiencies on their advance ballot signatures until the commencement of county canvassing and to create consistency between all 105 counties in how signature issues are handled.

Currently, our legal counsel has advised our office that voters have until 7pm on election day to cure a signature issue on their advance ballot envelope. Our concern is that this does not allow sufficient time for our office to reach out to voters whose ballots arrive the day before or on election day. Additionally, we accept ballots that were post marked by election day and that are received in our office by the Friday after the election. The current timeline does not provide a voter time to cure any deficiencies if their ballot is delivered to the county election office after election day.

I fully support Substitute Senate Bill 130 as presented to you.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Tabitha Lehman
Sedgwick County Election Commissioner