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HEARINGS

December 21, 2009

TO: The Honorable Judge Manuel J. Cervantes

FROM: Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits has reviewed the proposed Amendments to *Minnesota Rules* chapters 8205, 8210, 8220, 8230, 8235, 8240, 8250, and 8255. We have also studied the proposed Absentee Ballot Envelope and Instructions Redesign. On behalf of the organizations that we work with to conduct nonpartisan voter education, we urge you to accept the proposed rules changes.

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits sponsors the Minnesota Participation Project. Working with our over 2000 nonprofit member organizations statewide and other nonprofits, we encourage people to exercise their right to vote and to be informed voters. We work with other organizations for constant improvements in the voting system to ensure that every vote counts and that voting is accessible and easy for eligible voters.

We believe that the proposed changes will, indeed, clarify and improve the absentee voting process. This serves all parties well, because the better the information and the more clear the actions to be taken, the fewer the problems that will arise around voter intent and the validity of ballots.

We appreciate the attention that you are giving to this proposal and are pleased to offer our support for the proposed changes and our encouragement to you to accept the proposal.

Sincerely,

Marcia Avner

Public Policy Director

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