

MICHAEL A. MAURO
SECRETARY OF STATE



STATEHOUSE
DES MOINES, IA 50319

OFFICE OF THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

February 18, 2009

Chairman Tim Kaine
Democratic National Committee
430 S. Capitol St. SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Chairman Kaine:

Again, let me congratulate you on your recent election. As you know, one of the foremost issues you face in your new position is the structure of the presidential primary process in our country. Our party saw fit to create the Democratic Change Commission so that we can address the significant problems that have been encountered in the last several presidential primary nominating calendars. As, Co-Chair of the NASS Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries I want to strongly encourage you to appoint several Secretaries of State to this committee, as their vast knowledge of election procedures and other nuances will be of vital importance to this body's work.

There are many issues that this committee will consider when crafting a presidential primary calendar. Most, if not all, of those issues will relate to the execution of elections in particular states. Issues such as absentee balloting, printing deadlines and other major election issues are significantly affected by any primary calendar decision. For this reason, Secretaries of State are the logical leaders to advise the committee on such aspects. Other than voters and candidates, election officials are most impacted by any decisions that this committee will make.

While there will be many Democratic leaders who will no doubt request representation on this committee, none could add greater depth and insight than could our party's own Secretaries of State. I appreciate you considering my request and stand ready to assist you if you have any questions about how Secretaries of State may play a role in this pivotal committee. I look forward to hearing of your positive response.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Mauro

Michael A. Mauro
Iowa Secretary of State
Co-Chair, NASS Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries