



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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April 5, 2013

The Honorable Robert E. Latta
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable William J. Pascrell, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Latta and Congressman Pascrell:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I am writing to express our support for the *State and Local Law Enforcement Hatch Act Reform Act of 2013* (H.R. 659). This bill would amend current law to clarify the standards by which the *Hatch Act* may be applied in future elections.

Currently, allowable "political activities," as they apply to the Office of Sheriff, are ambiguous, which has resulted in unfair claims of violations of the *Hatch Act*, especially during election cycles. And, there is no statute of limitations or deadline by which the Office of Special Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice must file charges for alleged violations.

Accordingly, this legislation is a key issue for the nation's sheriffs as it would further amend the *Hatch Act* (5 U.S.C. §§ 1501-1508) to clarify that sheriffs may endorse political candidates without fear of potentially violating the *Act*; and it would establish a statute of limitations of 6 months to file a claim of an alleged violation.

We sincerely thank you for your continued leadership on the *State and Local Law Enforcement Hatch Act Reform Act of 2013* (H.R. 659). And, the nation's sheriffs stand ready to assist you in passing this critical legislation during the 113th Congress.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Aaron D. Kennard".

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard
Executive Director