

DECLARATION OF BARBARA BOLLING

I, Barbara Bolling, being of legal age and sound mind, do hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I am the President of the Indiana State Conference of NAACP Branches ("State Conference"). The facts to which I am testifying are based upon personal knowledge and are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

2. The NAACP is the nation's oldest civil rights organization, founded in 1909. It has units and members nationwide, including in Indiana. Our mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

3. The NAACP has branches and members throughout Indiana, including in Gary, East Chicago and Hammond. All NAACP units in Indiana, including the Gary, East Chicago and Hammond branches, are members of the Indiana State Conference.

4. The State Conference is extensively involved in a variety of voter empowerment initiatives throughout Indiana, including voter education, voter registration, and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) activity. I am actively involved in the planning and implementation of these activities. Through our voter empowerment programs, we seek to enhance voter registration and civic awareness and participation, particularly in communities of color and in youth and economically disadvantaged communities across Indiana. In that regard, we seek to provide accessible and convenient opportunities for people to register to vote, wherever they live and wherever they may be found.

5. According to the census of 2000, Crown Point is over 95 percent White and under 2 percent African American. According to the census of 2000, Gary is 84 percent African American. East Chicago is 36 percent African American and more than 51 percent Hispanic. Hammond is more than 14 percent African American and 21 percent Hispanic. For residents of Gary, East Chicago and Hammond, the Crown Point voting location is not reasonably accessible by public transportation. It can be a four hour roundtrip. Accordingly, the State Conference is very concerned that were Crown Point to be the only early voting site in Lake County, there would be a detrimental impact on our members and core constituencies in Gary, East Chicago and Hammond.

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury, pursuant to the laws of the United States, that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

This 2nd day of October, 2008.



BARBARA BOLLING