

HONORABLE JOHN CONYERS, JR.

March 1, 2005

Mr. Brad Friedman, Director  
VelvetRevolution.us  
POB 9576  
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Mr. Friedman:

I want to thank you for your strong commitment to electoral reform. It is because of the activism of the netroots and grassroots and organizations, such as VelvetRevolution.us, that Congress and the American people are moving forward to ensure that all future elections are the model for the free world.

Today, I have joined your campaign for a transparent, accountable, and trustworthy election system. I have written to the nine major vote machine companies asking that they quickly adopt the steps your organization has requested in your February 21, 2005, "Divestiture for Democracy" letter to them. While I have introduced legislation to implement these changes, the political outlook in this Congress for any election reform legislation is uncertain, and the legislative process is invariably slow. Therefore, I agree that these companies should voluntarily and unilaterally take these actions because Americans should not have to wait any longer for comprehensive electoral reform.

In my letter, I stated that only companies that step up and move forward on these initiatives should be allowed to receive taxpayer funds under the Help America Vote Act. I believe that this is a position that many of my colleagues in Congress will support. I am considering legislation that would deny HAVA funds to companies that refuse to take these steps. First, however, we need to give them the opportunity to respond to our requests.

I look forward to working with you on this important issue, please keep up the good work that your organization is doing on behalf of the best interests of our country.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.