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July 30, 2007

Honorable Debra Bowen
Secretary of State
1500 11th St., 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Top to Bottom Review

Dear Secretary Bowen:

I would like to provide the following comments regarding the just-completed Top to Bottom Review of the Diebold voting system.

I was disappointed to find that the teams did not check any of the systems for accuracy and did not specifically look for malicious code. I am pleased that, even though the teams did not look for malicious code specifically, they also did not come across any malicious code imbedded in any of the voting systems software.

As stated in the reports by the experts, any time a computer system is used, it is vulnerable to attack and as such needs security procedures in effect. Mendocino County uses the Diebold procedures as approved by your office on May 8, 2006. If you feel that additional security procedures are warranted based on the new information provided by the review teams, I would urge you to implement such procedures so as to insure our voting system is safe.

Very truly yours,

Marsha A. Wharff
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder

