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-PRESS RELEASE -

PLAN TO REFORM PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CALENDAR GAINING SUPPORT

BYSIEWICZ PLEASSED NATION'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS ENDORSE NASS REGIONAL PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES PLAN

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz, a member of the National Association of Secretaries of the State (NASS) Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries, is pleased the NASS Rotating Regional Presidential Primaries Plan has received another major endorsement from a national organization of state officials. The National Lieutenant Governor's Association voted yesterday, March 13th, to endorse adoption of the plan for the 2012 election cycle.

"To leave the primary calendar the way it is just invites chaos," said Bysiewicz. "We must reform the way we choose our parties nominees for president. I am pleased the National Lieutenant Governor's Association has joined my fellow secretaries of state in endorsing a reasonable and fair system to nominate candidates for president"

According to NASS, their proposal divides the country into four geographic areas—Eastern, Southern, Midwestern and Western—and rotates each region to vote first beginning in March. The other regions would hold their primary elections in April, May and June. A different part of the country would vote first every sixteen years. New Hampshire and Iowa would retain their early status to allow under-funded and less widely known candidates to compete through retail politics rather than the costly media-driven campaigns required in larger states.

The NASS Rotating Regional Presidential Primaries Plan is the only reform proposal with bipartisan support from federal, state, and local elected officials. In addition to the

National Lieutenant Governor's Association endorsement, the Council of State Governments has taken a position in support of the plan. The NASS plan was also endorsed by a 2005 blue-ribbon panel, the Commission on Federal Election Reform, co-chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III. U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) are chief sponsors of federal legislation that mirrors the NASS plan, the Regional Primaries Act of 2007.

The Republican National Committee Standing Committee on Rules will meet this spring to discuss reform proposals. The Democratic National Committee has indicated that it will examine its nominating procedures this summer.