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Dear Senator or Representative:

Forecasters warn that on Tuesday, November 2, 2004, the chaos that lasted 36 days in the fall of 2000 will revisit America with a vengeance. This time, rather than a disruption in one state, multiple epicenters promise to appear across the country, shattering Americans' confidence in the outcome.

This country is already experiencing a severe erosion of trust in government. If the American people do not accept the outcome of this year's presidential election, the chaos will last long past the inauguration of the declared winner, distracting and destabilizing the country, making us extremely vulnerable to both domestic violence and outside attack.

We have not heard of a Congressional plan to avert this very likely, very dangerous situation. So, on behalf of a fast-growing, broad coalition of Americans, we propose a simple and doable solution, which could be introduced as a separate bill or appended to legislation aimed at protecting the nation. We believe national confidence can be attained only from a fully transparent Federal election in November. The legislation we are proposing would **enable every American voter to cast their choice for President, Vice-President, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Representative on a paper ballot that will be hand counted at each polling place in public view, so voters can observe their fellow citizens counting and tabulating the votes and then posting the results for all to see.**

While Supervisors of Elections around the country are receiving increasing pressure from voters demanding transparency in our election processes, experienced election judges currently working in the field have confirmed that our proposal is logistically realistic.

There will be those in Congress who question whether there is enough time remaining in which to make the necessary adjustments at the polling places. Many may insist on proceeding with our patchwork of voting systems that have been hurriedly cobbled together and portend to provide little protection from the oncoming outburst of anger and doubt.

To those skeptics we submit, if we can put Americans on the moon, we can figure out a way to dust off the ballot boxes and appropriate the funds needed to preserve the integrity of our November 2 election. To those of you who believe in the "can-do" spirit of America: we need your **immediate** sponsorship of the proposed legislation, in order to ensure that Americans accept the results of the November election.

Will you step forward in this critical moment in our nation's timeline to spearhead this historic effort to restore the people's confidence in our democracy?

Sincerely,

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National Ballot Integrity Project
www.ballotintegrity.org

Campaign for Verifiable Voting in Maryland
Citizen's Alliance for Secure Elections (CASE Ohio)
Coalition for Visible Ballots
North Carolina Coalition for Verifiable Voting
S.A.V.E.-Democracy (California)
West Virginia Citizens for HAVA