



**DEBRA BOWEN** | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
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April 6, 2011

The Honorable Paul Fong, Chairman  
Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 365  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 459 (Hill) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Fong:

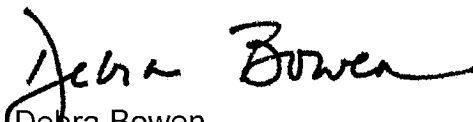
I'm pleased to offer my support for AB 459 (Hill), as amended on March 31, 2011, which will ratify California's participation in an interstate compact whereby member states would award their electoral votes to the Presidential nominee who receives the most votes nationwide in a general election.

The current "winner take all" system of electoral votes actually discourages voter turnout in states that are considered "safe" for one party or another. Presidential campaigns focus their attention on a few battleground states whose electoral votes will decide the outcome of the election. California has long been considered a "safe state," meaning candidates have little or no reason to come here to meet with voters and address California-specific issues.

AB 459 offers an alternative to the Electoral College that will go into effect when states representing a majority of the electoral votes have adopted the agreement. This measure will help ensure that the winner of the national popular vote is elected President.

If you have any further questions please contact me, or you may reach my Deputy for Legislative and Constituent Affairs, Ronda Paschal, at (916) 653-6774.

Sincerely,

  
Debra Bowen  
Secretary of State

DB:elg:rp:op

cc: The Honorable Jerry Hill  
Members, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee