

Dear Representative:

I have grave concerns about a new bill authored by Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.) H-R811 requiring voter-verified paper ballots. The central focus of the bill – and its most controversial aspect – is the requirement that all voting systems “produce an individual voter-verified paper ballot.”

In South Carolina, we successfully held 2006 Primaries and General elections using our touch screen voting machines. Protests were limited...fewer than in recent years.

Our voting machines do, in fact produce paper verified results; however, legislating that paper be used for every individual voter with could cause chaos at the Polling Locations.

Many of our Poll Managers are retirement age and above. To ask these citizens to change paper rolls and un-jam paper from the VVPAT (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail) apparatus would not be practical.

Other problems include:

- Forcing a 2008 timeline will likely impair the Presidential Election
- It would be impossible for South Carolina to use our brand new Voting Machines as they are now
- Voter confidence will become very low and possibly force close elections to court

Additionally, our new voting machines can be retrofitted for the VVPAT, however, it will not be cheap. **Here in Abbeville County, we can not afford the financial burden.** As you know, the remaining federal HAVA money is insufficient.

Finally, South Carolina is in the forefront of the Election Process. The electronic touch screen voting system used statewide was a success. Please do not vote to force our state to take a step backward. We have come too far!

Very sincerely yours,

M. Lynne West
Director of Elections
Abbeville County