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NOV 17 1987

The Honorable Tom Loftus
Chair, NCSSL State-Federal Assembly
National Conference of State Legislatures
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. Loftus:

President Reagan has asked that I respond to your letter of October 23, 1987 voicing the National Conference of State Legislatures' support for allowing United States citizens in the territories to vote for President and Vice President of the United States.

As you know, under the Constitution, the political status and rights of the citizens of the territories of the United States rest solely with the United States Congress unless otherwise delegated. Legislation which would authorize the citizens of the territories to vote for President has been frequently introduced, but never acted upon. Such legislation would require a Constitutional Amendment and approval of two-thirds of the States.

I am unaware of any Congressional plans to hold hearings on this subject in the immediate future. Should we be called upon by the Congress for our views, we will certainly take the opinion of the National Conference of State Legislatures into consideration.

Sincerely,

Kittie Baier

Kittie Baier
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Territorial and International Affairs

cc: Secy Reading/files
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