



August 24, 2021

Hon. Robert C. Wilson
Bergen County Courthouse
10 Market Street, 2nd Fl.
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Re: Food & Water Watch et al. v. Ruccione et al
Docket No. BER-L-005566-21

Dear Judge Wilson:

In response to a phone call to your chambers inquiring about the status of the Request for Temporary Restraints and the Order to Show Cause in the above referenced matter I was informed that you will be handling this matter separately from Lacey et al v. Ruccione, et al, where I am co-counsel, and have not yet signed the Order to Show Cause.

I respectfully urge you to schedule a hearing in the aforementioned matter prior to September 13, 2021, at which time the ballots must be ready to send to the printer for the November 2, 2021 election. I have been involved in several initiative and referendum cases over the years, and have found that it always best for the parties, the public and the candidates that these matters get resolved sooner than later. Emergent appeals to the NJ Supreme Court to ensure that public questions get on the ballot when municipalities have tried to thwart such efforts have happened, but the rush to get heard is unpleasant for all parties involved, and seems unnecessarily dramatic.

Plaintiffs in this matter have acted responsibly in getting this matter before the court promptly after their petition was deemed insufficient. The issue in this case is not very complex and simply involves the validity of electronic signatures that were gathered prior to July 4, 2021, pursuant to several Governor Executive Orders, but were filed a week or so later after those orders expired.

New Jersey Appleseed
Public Interest Law Center of New Jersey
23 James Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Phone: 973.735.0523
Email: renee@njappleseed.org
Website: www.njappleseed.org

I therefore respectfully request that you schedule the return date sometime during the first week in September.

Sincerely,

/s/Renée Steinhagen

Renée Steinhagen

Cc: Defendants' counsel