EXHIBIT A
May 29, 2020

The Honorable Phil Berger  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
16 West Jones Street, Rm. 2007  
Raleigh, NC 27601

The Honorable Dan Blue  
Senate Democratic Leader  
16 West Jones Street, Rm. 1129  
Raleigh, NC 27601

The Honorable Tim Moore  
House Speaker  
16 West Jones Street, Rm. 2304  
Raleigh, NC 27601

The Honorable Darren G. Jackson  
House Democratic Leader  
300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 506  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear President Pro Tempore Berger, Senator Blue, Speaker Moore, and Representative Jackson:

I write regarding the North Carolina General Assembly’s efforts to address the effects of the COVID-19 virus on our elections this year. I am pleased to know that members of the General Assembly are working together on a bipartisan basis to address this global health crisis. I have reviewed House Bill 1169, entitled An Act to Make Various Changes to the Laws Related to Elections and to Appropriate Funds to the State Board of Elections in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (HB 1169), which passed in the House of Representatives yesterday. Many of the provisions in HB 1169 are a step in the right direction towards ensuring that every eligible North Carolinian has the opportunity to exercise the right to vote in November. However, there are a number of outstanding areas that would benefit from the General Assembly’s attention. Addressing these considerations, in particular the use of prepaid postage for absentee ballot envelopes, would serve to further the safe exercise of the franchise for the approximately 7 million registered voters in North Carolina.

- **Proof-of-residence for Absentee Ballots:** Currently, when requesting an absentee ballot, a voter must provide either their driver’s license number or last four digits of
their Social Security number.\(^1\) Many voters—and, particularly, senior citizens—may not have access to a driver’s license number or may be unable to easily locate their Social Security number. These voters are often the same voters for whom it is infeasible or unsafe to vote in-person. Allowing voters to use a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing the name and address of the voter would help ensure that these voters, who may be most at-risk for contracting the COVID-19 virus, are able to safely exercise their right to vote.

- **County Assistance With Filling Out Absentee Ballot Requests:** HB 1169 would allow voters to request absentee ballots electronically. However, voters would not be able to request the assistance of anyone other than a near relative or guardian or a member of a multipartisan elections team to fill out these request forms. Allowing county boards of elections to pre-fill the request forms with the voters’ name and address would reduce the need for those who require in-person assistance—particularly those who are at high risk—to subject themselves and others to the risk of contracting or spreading the COVID-19 virus.

- **Pollworker Pay:** HB 1169 allows money from the federal CARES Act funding to be used by county boards of elections to increase pay for official pollworkers, who are employed on a temporary basis during election season. While this is a step in the right direction, pollworkers should have the assurance that any unemployment benefits they may be receiving would not be affected by service as an official pollworker.

- **Prepaid Postage for Absentee Ballots:** The part of HB 1169 that allows for voters to request absentee ballots by email and fax would help increase access to absentee ballots by voters for whom it may be infeasible or unsafe to vote in-person. But any voter who requests an absentee ballot, even electronically, must still acquire postage to be able to return the ballot to the appropriate county board of elections if it is unsafe or infeasible for them to personally deliver it to the appropriate county board. Sometimes obtaining proper postage is difficult, especially for those with limited mobility and those at higher risk from COVID-19. Given the restrictions in movement and social-distancing requirements that may be in place in November, providing prepaid postage on returned absentee ballots would eliminate the need for a voter to leave their residence to acquire postage and would decrease the need for the voter to turn over their ballot to another individual for delivery to the appropriate county board. Prepaid postage for absentee ballots would also help facilitate North Carolinians living in assisted-living facilities to return their ballots safely.

- **One-Stop Requirements:** Currently, if any one-stop site in a county is open, all one-stop sites in that county must be open from 8:00 am to 7:30 pm. Providing county boards of elections flexibility to set different hours for one-stop sites would allow them to appropriately respond to the public-health considerations and social-

distancing requirements to prevent the contraction and spread of the COVID-19 virus that may exist in November.

I am pleased that the General Assembly is endeavoring to address the global pandemic and its effect on the 2020 elections. I hope to be able to work together with you to ensure that all eligible North Carolinians are able to vote safely in November.

Regards,

Josh Stein