EXHIBIT
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News Release

RELEASED BY: Attorney General Peter W. Heed

SUBJECT: Voting Rights Act – Submission of a request for preclearance of New Hampshire's partial redistricting of State Senate and House Districts to the Federal Department of Justice

DATE: June 1, 2004

RELEASE TIME: Immediate

Attorney General Peter W. Heed announces the submission of a request for expedited preclearance of the redistricting of State Senate and House Districts for the State of New Hampshire to the Federal Department of Justice. The State Senate districts were partially redrawn by House Bill 264 and the State House districts were partially redrawn by House Bill 1292, both of which were effective on May 28, 2004.

Ten New Hampshire towns are subject to section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act. Changes to New Hampshire election laws that affect any of these ten towns must be submitted for review by either the Federal Department of Justice or the Federal District Court for Washington D.C. The federal Department of Justice will review the changes to New Hampshire's State Senate and House districts to ensure that the change does not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color, or membership in a language minority group. Changes to New Hampshire redistricting statutes have been submitted to, and approved by, the U.S. Justice Department since the 1980 census. Federal regulations require that the public be notified that the State has filed a request for preclearance and that the submission be available for public inspection.

Copies of the submission by the Attorney General for the State of New Hampshire are available at the office of the Attorney General at 33 Capitol Street and at the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Room 204, both located in Concord New Hampshire, 03301. The document will also be made available at the Attorney General's Office web site at:

http://www.doj.nh.gov/elections/

Attorney General Heed and the federal Department of Justice invite persons interested in this submission to submit comments and information, in writing or by telephone, to the Voting Section of the Federal Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, at the earliest possible date to assure that they may be considered during the preclearance review time period. Telephone 1-800-253-3931 or (202) 307-2385 or write Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, Room 7354 – NWB, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20530. The envelope and first page should be marked "Comment under section 5." Additional information on the Voting Rights Act and the preclearance process can be obtained at the web site of the Federal Department of Justice at:

http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting/index.htm

The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office Voting section can be contacted at:

http://www.doj.nh.gov/elections/
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