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Mr. Kevin K. Sullivan
Interim Permanent Representative of the United States of America
to the Organization of American States (OAS)
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

It is my pleasure to acknowledge receipt of the letter dated June 30, 2016, in which the Interim Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the OAS, on behalf of the United States Government, invites the Organization of American States (OAS) to observe the U.S. Presidential and Congressional elections on November 8, 2016.

Since 1962, the OAS has remained committed to strengthening electoral processes in the Americas through its observation and technical assistance efforts, including the deployment of over 230 Electoral Observation Missions (OAS/EOMs) in 26 countries throughout the continent. In this regard, it is my distinct privilege to respond positively to this request to deploy the first-ever OAS Electoral Observation Mission to the United States of America.

Once the electoral process is complete, the results of the OAS/EOM will be presented in a report to the OAS Permanent Council. This report will detail the activities carried out by the Mission as well as specific observations and recommendations regarding different aspects of the electoral process.

As such, I have instructed the OAS Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy to prepare a proposal and budget to deploy an EOM to the United States. As is customary, the size and scope of this mission will depend on the voluntary contributions received from OAS Member and Observer States.

The OAS General Secretariat looks forward to working closely with the US Department of State to coordinate with the appropriate state and local officials in the preparation and realization of this Mission. We appreciate the value placed by the United States on the work of the OAS to promote free and fair elections in the Americas and its ongoing support to the Electoral Observation Missions.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.


Luis Almagro
Secretary General