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For Immediate Release

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*Unprecedented Effort for New Investigation to be Launched on 9/11 Anniversary*

## **U.S. Senator Leads Massachusetts Initiative Campaign for a New 9/11 Commission**

(Boston, MA) Senator Mike Gravel announced today the inauguration of a citizens' campaign to authorize a new investigation of the events of September 11, 2001. Sen. Gravel has filed a proposed ballot initiative that is expected to be approved by the Attorney General of Massachusetts by September 7. If adopted by the voters, the new law would create an independent, citizen-led investigatory commission that would be seated in Massachusetts and be vested with subpoena power and the power to take testimony under oath. "I personally initiated this effort to create a new 9/11 commission," stated Gravel, "in response to the unending outpouring of calls for a new investigation—in the light of new evidence—from Americans across the political spectrum. Because our gridlocked Congress is obviously incapable of taking up this issue, I believe that state initiatives are our best alternative approach. Massachusetts is an optimal state in which to begin this work."

Gravel is a former two-term Senator from Alaska and a 2008 presidential candidate who is also considering a run for the presidency in 2012 at the urging of grassroots groups. The Senator is currently chair and founder of the Citizens 9/11 Commission Campaign (911cc.org), a California-based citizen's group that is filing similar ballot measures in other states, notably Oregon and Alaska.

Gravel pointed out that thousands of courageous Americans have lent their names to the call for a new investigation, including over 220 senior military, intelligence, and other government officials; over 1,500 engineers and architects; over 250 pilots and aviation professionals; and over 400 professors. (Please see PatriotsQuestion911.com.) "Polls have also repeatedly shown that millions of Americans seriously doubt the official story about 9/11," Gravel stated. "On the tenth anniversary of these events, it is obvious that we urgently need citizen action to get a new investigation."

Senator Gravel traces his interest in the issue to the charge leveled by the co-chairs that the original 9/11 Commission, Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, that the Commission they led was "set up to fail," as stated in their 2006 book, *Without Precedent*. Gravel pointed out that, according to an Associated Press review article (August 4, 2006), "the Sept. 11 commission was so frustrated with repeated

misstatements by the Pentagon and FAA about their response to the 2001 terror attacks that it considered an investigation into possible deception.” Co-chair Kean stated: “We to this day don’t know why NORAD [the North American Aerospace Command] told us what they told us. It was just so far from the truth. It’s one of those loose ends that never got tied.” Gravel also noted that the Senior Counsel to the 9/11 Commission, John Farmer, openly stated that “At some level of the government, at some point in time . . . there was an agreement not to tell the truth about what happened.”

### **Statewide Ballot Initiative Campaign for a New 9/11 Commission**

Senator Gravel—a native of Massachusetts—will kick off the ballot initiative campaign on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of 9/11 with a two press conferences, followed by a 12-day tour of the state.

The first press conference will be held on September 12, 2011 at 2:30 pm at the Boston Logan International Airport 9/11 Memorial. (The new memorial commemorates the 206 victims of the 9/11 attacks who had ties to Massachusetts.) The second will be held the following day at 11:00 am on the steps of the Massachusetts state house on Beacon Hill.

Senator Gravel will be supported in the state by a coalition of Massachusetts 9/11 advocacy groups and local concerned citizens led by Rich McCampbell, a Cambridge-based biotech engineer, and Rich Aucoin, former Libertarian candidate for lieutenant governor who has worked in senior positions in three previous initiative campaigns. Working with Gravel, the statewide alliance will create awareness and raise the funds needed for running a petition campaign. The group’s slogan is “**9/11—Never Forget. Vote YES to remember 9/11.**”

In cooperation with Senator Gravel, McCampbell, Aucoin, and a group of 20 Massachusetts voters submitted the proposed initiative law on August 3. Its formal certification by the Attorney General’s office of Massachusetts is due no later than September 7.

In his public appearances in key cities and towns through the state, Gravel will explain the intent of the proposed law to voters, who will then be asked to support the petition campaign, the first step in the group’s work. According to the Massachusetts initiative law, supporters must collect a minimum of nearly 70,000 valid signatures from registered voters by early December of 2011.

### **Proposed Powers of the New 9/11 Commission**

If Gravel’s petition campaign succeeds in getting its measure on the ballot, and if it is approved by Massachusetts voters in November of 2012, the primary work of the “Citizens’ 9/11 Investigation Commission,” once it is funded and seated, will be to engage in a fair and impartial investigation of the circumstances of the alleged terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The Commission, supported by its staff, will call or subpoena witnesses and hold evidentiary hearings under oath. It will also be empowered to inquire into events leading up to 9/11, as well as those occurring in its aftermath, and will re-examine the findings of any previous investigations.

The Commission established by the initiative law will consist of at least 15 members. Commissioners will be selected by the Citizens’ 9/11 Commission Campaign steering committee from a screened list of nominations submitted by the public and also from among its own internally compiled list of distinguished citizens. The newly seated commissioners will then elect an executive director who will hire staff. The final report

on the Commission's findings, due no later than January 1, 2015, can be used by a state or federal prosecutor to issue indictments if and when appropriate.

"The previous 9/11 Commission report," noted Aucoin, "did not hold any U.S. government officials responsible for possible negligence or for intended or unintended missteps that led to the events of 9/11. Well-established rules of evidence were never applied to the original commission's finding which alleged that Osama bin Laden and a list of co-conspirators committed the crime. The intent of our approach, by contrast, is to hold all parties to this tragedy accountable under the criminal laws of the state of Massachusetts or the laws of any other state that joins our effort."

Notably, other states may enter into a so-called joint-powers agreement with Massachusetts if the initiative law passes. The authorized powers of the new commission can be extended to any state that enters into this agreement for cooperation. "The Citizens' 9/11 Investigation Commission created by the Massachusetts law may exercise all investigatory powers of each state that has entered into the joint powers agreement," explained Gravel, "including but not limited to the power of subpoena in that state and the power to take testimony under oath."

Using several different state initiative laws to create one citizens' commission, thereby creating a de facto national effort, is without precedent, but has already been legally accepted in principle by the offices of legislative counsel of the states of California and Oregon. "The law now submitted to Massachusetts," said Gravel, "was in fact drafted by me in cooperation with Oregon's State Office of Legislative Counsel. I then slightly altered it for introduction in Massachusetts. We will file the Oregon document shortly. Our intent is to keep the Oregon and Massachusetts texts—and that of any other state initiative that we file—as similar as possible."

### **Massachusetts State Requirements for Initiative Laws**

Rich McCampbell pointed out that there are several key steps to bear in mind. "If and when our initiative passes in November 2012, funding for the measure will be a separate matter. Under Massachusetts law, the issue of financing of the provisions of an initiative law, once passed, is an exclusive prerogative of the state legislature; funding provisions cannot be included in any Massachusetts initiative."

Such a requirement is, however, not the case in Oregon initiative law, where funding for the creation of the new commission is built into the proposed initiative legislation.

In Massachusetts, signatures collected by the December 2011 deadline must equal three percent of the votes cast for governor in the last election, or approximately 70,000 signatures. Massachusetts has a distribution requirement that mandates that no more than one-quarter of the certified signatures may come from any one county. By law, after petition signatures are collected and certified, the state legislature is required to consider whether it will adopt the proposed law without the need for a statewide vote of the people. If the state legislature declines to act, supporters of the measure are required to collect a second round of signatures, totaling 0.5 percent of the vote cast for governor in the most recent election. ###

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### REFERENCES

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**Dan Eggen, *Washington Post* (August 2, 2006) “9/11 Panel Suspected Deception by Pentagon”:**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/01/AR2006080101300.html>

**Dan Fletcher, *Time* (Sept. 11, 2009), “A New Look at the 9/11 Commission”**

“It’s almost a culture of concealment, for lack of a better word. There were interviews made at the FAA’s New York center the night of 9/11 and those tapes were destroyed. The CIA tapes of the interrogations were destroyed. The story of 9/11 itself, to put it mildly, was distorted and was completely different from the way things happened.” [John Farmer, senior counsel to the 9/11 Commission]

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1921659,00.html>

**Senior Counsel to the 9/11 Commission shocked at deceptions:**

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**Laws governing the initiative process in Massachusetts**

[http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Laws\\_governing\\_the\\_initiative\\_process\\_in\\_Massachusetts](http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Laws_governing_the_initiative_process_in_Massachusetts)