

МОНГОЛ УЛСЫН
ИХ ХУРАЛ



STATE GREAT HURAL
(PARLIAMENT) OF
MONGOLIA

State Palace
Ulaanbaatar
Mongolia

№ 01/20/010/04

Tel: 976-51-260496
976-51-262636
976-51-262866
Fax: 976-11-322866
<http://www.parliament.mn>

Professor James S. Fishkin
Center for Deliberative Democracy
Stanford University
California, USA

19 February 2020

Dear Professor Fishkin,

I am writing to express the State Great Hural of Mongolia's appreciation for the important support that The Center for Deliberative Democracy at Stanford University provided for the Deliberative Poll (DP) held on the topic of constitutional amendment on 29-30 April 2017.

I am pleased to inform you that Mongolia successfully amended its constitution on 14 November 2019. The DP was a critical part of the process of consultation and discourse that helped shaped the final amendments. You will see that most of the major changes made in these latest amendments, can be traced back to the key issues the citizen's discussed during the DP.

My personal reflection is that the thoughtful opinions shared by citizens during the DP were fundamental to the constitutional revision process. Indeed, we made citizen participation and listening a fundamental part of the amendment process, and we used a range of consultative mechanisms. Parliamentarians had hearings and meetings with citizens around the country, and we received tens of thousands of comments and suggestions. Compared with all the other consultation mechanisms used, the DP produced the most informed and carefully considered opinions, while also providing a vast amount of data (quantitative but also qualitative through the transcripts) that those working on the amendments could consult, analyze and refer back to. The details of the amendment were refined and adjusted during the process and with rigorous debate from a range of expert and political contributions, but the principles laid out through the DP came through the process and can be seen clearly in the final product. The DP acted as a focus group with a sample that represented all Mongolians, and was very much instructive for myself and other leading actors who carried the amendment process forward.

I am confident that these constitutional amendments mark an important opportunity for Mongolia's continued democratic development, and the DP was a critical part of this historical moment. I do believe that we will continue to find ways to use deliberative democracy concepts to strengthen citizen participation and deepen our democratic practice here in Mongolia in the future. We also hope that Mongolia's adoption of the DP as a tool for effective constitutional amendment that can be a model for the rest of the world. We welcome opportunities to share our experience, and to exchange viewpoints with other governments and academics who have or are planning to use deliberative polling going forward.

Once again, please accept my thanks for your support to date, and we look forward to future cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zandanshatar Gombojav', written over a horizontal line.

Zandanshatar Gombojav
Chairman
State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia