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Vitter opposes U.N. monitoring of U.S. elections

(Washington, D.C.) — U.S. Rep. David Vitter wrote Secretary of State Colin Powell yesterday urging the State Department to rescind its invitation to international monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the next U.S. election. Vitter is opposed to this invitation and to the presence of international monitors over the U.S. electoral process.

“International organizations like the United Nations and the OSCE have no place coming into our country to monitor our elections,” said Vitter.

In his letter, Vitter said the country’s ongoing commitment to fighting election and ballot fraud should be addressed by working with state and local governments to maintain our own electoral integrity.

Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act that would bar taxpayer funds from inviting U.N. observers and monitors. The amendment passed with a bipartisan majority, but has yet to be signed into law.

The State Department invited the OSCE to monitor the United States’ November election, which will be the first time international monitors have been present for a U.S. presidential election. Thirteen Democrats wrote the department requesting the invitation. The monitors will be from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.