

November 27, 2004

Scott and Julie,

It appears to me that this petition drive is doomed. You've made a valiant effort, but getting 225,000 signatures is an enormous task. We should be well over half way there by now, because it is going to be tougher getting signatures in the next 3 months than it was in the first 3.

In your November 18 newsletter, there was an item about Walmart allowing us to gather signatures at their stores. If this is true, there may be hope. If we could put volunteers inside, out of the cold, in Walmarts all over Michigan, we might be able to get the signatures we need. For each Walmart, we could assign someone who would get the permit, arrange the setup, and schedule volunteers so we have someone there during as much prime time as possible. But someone at Stop Shooting Doves needs to make sure Walmart really is willing to cooperate. We don't want to send people there only to be rejected by a store manager that doesn't know anything about it. That is what happened with the National Caged Bird Show at the Lansing Center November 20. Although your newsletter said "we have permission", we did not. The manager told me "No" when I asked, and wasn't very nice about it. Some other volunteers drove all the way from Grand Rapids and got rejected, so they were not very happy at all.

So, if you get get something concrete arranged with Walmart, I'd consider continuing to work. Otherwise, I think it is a lost cause.

Steve Harry