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17 States Join Texas Election Suit Amid Trump Pledge to Intervene in Case

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By: Mario Parker

Donald Trump said his campaign would seek to join a bid by Texas to challenge the president's election defeat at the U.S. Supreme Court. Now, 17 other states have filed in support of the case, which allies call the culmination of Trump's legal challenges and critics dismiss as a publicity stunt.

"This is the big one," Trump tweeted Wednesday morning. Trump must petition the Supreme Court to be allowed to intervene.

Seventeen other states filed a brief in support of the Texas suit, brought by the state's scandal-plagued attorney general, Ken Paxton. Texas is seeking to prevent electors from Michigan, Georgia, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania from participating in the Electoral College on Dec. 14.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday evening gave the states until 3 p.m. Thursday to file responses.

Paxton's case repeats allegations about mail-in voting that have already been roundly rejected in dozens of courts across the nation.

The Texas suit was filed on the same day as the Dec. 8 "safe harbor" date for states to certify their slates of electors to send to the Electoral College. The passing of that deadline means time is short for Trump's effort to overturn his re-election defeat, in which he's sought to pressure state legislatures to override voters and appoint alternative electors who would back him instead of Joe Biden.

In addition to Missouri, the states joining Texas were: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and West Virginia. All of the states were represented by Republican officials in the filing. All but three of the states have Republican governors.

Trump also said that his campaign hadn't been part of a separate case, brought by a Pennsylvania congressman, that the Supreme Court rebuffed on Tuesday -- the first time the high court has weighed in on Republican litigation to try to overturn the election outcome.

"This was not my case as has been so incorrectly reported," Trump wrote in a second tweet on Wednesday.

In a one-sentence order, the court said Tuesday that it would not grant a request from plaintiffs including Rep. Mike Kelly to void Pennsylvania's election results.

Reuters contributed to this report.