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To: Joint Subcommittee on General Government; others

*****I mislabeled my testimony. I referred [SB 5538] as [HB 5538]. I apologize for the confusion.**

Re: [SB 5538]...Should the Budget for the SOS be contingent on issues below?

There are issues concerning the Secretary of State's (SOS) Budget worthy of transmittal.

*****Motor Voter Registration:**

Does the SOS validate the individuals who use "Motor Voter Registration" as citizens of the United States of America (USA)? If not, are ballots sent to whomever is registered to Vote?

Does the SOS validate all voters as being citizens of the USA?

*****Audits Division: I feel it is necessary to separate the Audits Division from the SOS.**

The Audits Division should stand alone to eliminate any "conflicts of interest" and or possible acts of malfeasance.

Consider the following hypothetical:

" SOS (X) is a candidate for reelection and or needs a "favor" from particular business entities having and or are pursuing contracts with State of Oregon Agencies and or Departments.

A chosen business entity refuses to comply. At some point, the Audits Division is assigned to "audit" the business entity materially affecting the contract(s) and costs to the business entity(s)."

I do not suggest, infer and or imply any wrong doing by anyone. The aforementioned is simply a hypothetical which may and or may never occur. **The appearance of conflict of interest is always present.*

*******The State of Oregon is giving many contracts to Non-profit and Public Benefit Corporations. These organizations are referenced in several pieces of legislation this session to receive contracts for services.

The Audits Division must be separated from the SOS and stand alone.

I assert a demonstrable conflict of interest exists in the organizational structure of the SOS.

All businesses in the State of Oregon must be registered and accounted for by the SOS.

The Audits Division should not be in the same organizational structure as the SOS.

Thank-you to the SOS for the conduct of the employees listed below!

*****I would like the SOS to express my sincere thanks and appreciation, in a thorough and complete manner to, Ms. Amanda Kessel and Ms. Alma Whalen, for their exemplary service in the Elections Division of the SOS.**

Both Ms. Kessel and Ms. Whalen have distinguished themselves through countless, thankless hours of service carrying out the SOS Election Division's policies and statutes, during oppressive workloads due to COVID-19.

Ms. Kessel and Ms. Whalen deserve positive Departmental recognition for their efforts but, "Cash" always is "King."

In addition to my gratitude, I strongly recommend merit increases in pay for both, Ms. Kessel and Ms. Whalen commensurate to address their outstanding and ongoing contributions to the Election Division of the SOS.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ David S. Wall