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Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

I am Shemia Fagan, Oregon's 28th Secretary of State. My mission is to build **trust** between the people of Oregon and their state government so that public services can make a positive difference in people's everyday lives. In elections, trust is the very foundation of our democracy.

In recent years, Oregon has made great strides to become an inclusive state where people of all cultures can fully participate in civic life. Today I'm asking you to continue that work by increasing the number of languages in which we provide the Oregon Voters Pamphlet.

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3021, directing the Secretary of State to provide translated state and county voter pamphlets using the five most common languages in the state: Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Russian and Korean. The bill also created a formula to determine the languages of translation for each counties' primary, general, and special elections. Translated pamphlets can be found on our [webpage](#). To guide the implementation of HB 3021, the bill created the Translation Advisory Council, [TAC](#), which has provided culturally specific advice on the translations process as well as leadership on community engagement. The Council currently consists of 25 Oregonians volunteering their time to do this work. In 2022, the Council reviewed over 1,500 translated files and fifty-one translated web pages in fourteen languages for thirteen counties' and one state General Election voters' pamphlets. The Council is currently reviewing translations of county special district elections voters' pamphlets and developing a 500-word elections terminology glossary in fourteen languages.

Point of Contact:

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We have learned a lot since HB 3021 became law. For example, upon release of the language lists, I heard from advocates of non-included languages, including the Somali American Council of Oregon, the African Coalition, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Oregon Department of Human Services Slavic Employee Resource Group, the Portland Chinese Times, and Council members. Because of their advocacy and their feedback, I introduced [SB 169](#).

[SB 169](#), specifically the -2 amendment, will use census data to inform which languages are included. This would have the result of adding Traditional Chinese (written Chinese character), Persian, Romanian and Somali to the language lists, ensuring that the communities who speak those languages can fully participate in our democracy.

Thank you for your consideration of [SB 169](#) and the [-2 amendment](#). I urge your support.



Shemia Fagan
Oregon Secretary of State

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