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Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of the Senate Concurrent Resolution 204, a resolution recognizing and honoring the life of the late Bill Bradbury, Oregon's 23rd Secretary of State. Bill served as Secretary of State for a decade, following exemplary service in the state legislature. He was a champion for democracy, tirelessly worked to provide accountability of state funds through audits and worked to reduce paperwork and filing fees for businesses. Additionally, Secretary Bradbury passed legislation to create Small Business Development Centers across Oregon's college campuses. Through transparency and accessibility, he transformed our elections system. The former Secretary established Oregon's vote-by-mail-system, the first in the country. Since its creation 24 years ago, voter participation has increased annually, and currently 17 states have adopted vote-by-mail.

Secretary Bradbury also established more transparent campaign practices by establishing Oregon's online political campaign contribution system, ORESTAR, which gave the public more access to campaign finance information. With his leadership on improving access to our democracy, Oregon became the gold standard for elections administration and increasing access for all eligible voters to exercise their right to vote.

Secretary Bradbury not only left a lasting legacy for our democracy, but he was also an enthusiastic advocate for our natural environment. After his tenure at the Legislature and before his appointment as the Secretary of State, he fought to address the shrinking of the salmon population and was known as "Mr. Fish." His passion on environmental issues would later prove to be poignant as he was a member the State Land Board, fulfilling one of the constitutional roles as the Secretary of State. The board oversees waterways and wetlands management among other areas of oversight and accountability. Secretary Bradbury was also the first to Chair the Sustainability Board, which was created in 2001 to encourage activities that best sustain, protect, and enhance the environment, economy, and community for the present and future of Oregonians.

The former Secretary's passion, dedication, and commitment to public service, our democracy, and environment will not be forgotten. His legacy will continue to have a lasting impact in Oregon years to come. I encourage your support for SCR 204.

Sincerely,


Secretary LaVonne Griffin-Valade