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February 29, 2024

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Helfrich and Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of the Senate Concurrent Resolution 211, a resolution recognizing and honoring the late Steve Druckenmiller, Linn County Clerk. Steve led a long life of public service and was a fierce champion of vote-by-mail. Steve's dedication and commitment to democracy had impacts throughout Linn County, and communities throughout Oregon. Steve was hailed as an election expert through the country and his legacy will continue to have impacts throughout the election community for decades.

Steve was a trailblazer on vote-by-mail, automatic voter registration, championing voter registration, and piloted translation material in his county in Spanish. Steve was a fierce believer in election integrity and would often take any opportunity to share the safeguards of Oregon's election system with naysayers or election deniers. Steve dedicated his life, with 37 years as county clerk and 40 years total in the clerk's office.

Steve provided mentorship, friendship, and collegial support to county clerks, elections administrators, staff, and anyone who met him. He shared a love of buttons, and throughout his 40-year service, you'd see the multitude of buttons that covered his walls in his office. He would often recall each button and the story behind it to folks who toured his office.

Mr. Druckenmiller oversaw 141 vote-by-mail elections and 28 poll elections during his career. The loss of Steve is a tremendous loss to the election community, the Oregon Association of County Clerks, and to voting administrators and clerk community throughout the country.

I am honored to recognize the incredible legacy Steve had on elections. His legacy helped safeguard and protect our democracy. His community, family, and friends, lost an incredible individual and I'm honored this body is recognizing his contributions to Oregon and Linn County.

Thank you for allowing me to officially offer support for SCR 211.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lavonne Griffin-Valade". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin Valade