



**Testimony of Carol Moreno, Senior Policy Analyst
In Support of SB 1509
Senate Rules Committee
February 7, 2026**

Chair Jama and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carol Moreno, Senior Policy Analyst for Secretary of State Tobias Read. The Secretary of State's office is pleased to support SB 1509. Our office is tasked with an important mission—to build public confidence and trust in our electoral process. We do this by ensuring we provide accurate and secure election results.

We are proud of the work we have done so far, but there are still challenges ahead. Public trust in elections is eroding. We are continuing to see threats to election workers rise and attempts across the country to circumvent or call into question valid election results.

As election interference becomes a growing threat to our democracy, it is our shared responsibility to ensure the will of voters is being upheld. As you have heard, Oregon currently does not have an enforcement mechanism for presidential electors that choose not to abide by their pledge. SB 1509 not only provides clarity to the vacancy process for electors, but it also ensures all of Oregon's electoral votes are cast as directed by the statewide popular vote. Importantly, contemplating a scenario in which electors choose not to abide by their pledge is not far from home. According to the National Council of State Legislatures, in 2016 Washington state had three faithless electors that voted against their party's nominee.

In the 2024 legislative session, Oregon updated our existing statutes on the Electoral Count process to align with federal law through HB 4019. That measure designated the Secretary of State to sign, in addition to the Governor, the certificate of ascertainment that identifies electors. It also aligned the timeline with federal law for when electors would meet and added a security feature to the certificate of ascertainment.

The Secretary of State's office supports efforts by this body to build on these advancements and take timely steps to preserve our democratic principles. We urge your support of SB 1509.