

Submitter: Karen Wells

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1509

Dear Senate Rules Committee Chairperson,

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 1509. It is vital that electors be trustworthy, honest and committed to doing their responsibilities with transparency. Failure to do so, hurts us the people and throws shade on the process of electing a decent person to the highest office of the land. We are in dangerous waters, peril lurks at every turn, fascism is taking hold.

States that do not have robust processes, fail to take action to guard against faithless self interest or hollow disregard for the importance of the obligations of the position, could find themselves entangled in chaos that unsettles our presidential election process.

Currently, Oregon has no enforcement mechanism that will ensure electors follow through on their pledge. Legislation (SB 1509) has been introduced during Oregon's short legislative session to remedy this issue by allowing our Secretary of State to review and enforce elector pledges, invalidating any ballot cast in violation. In addition, if any presidential elector does cast a ballot faithlessly, this legislation will require that elector to be removed from their position and that they be replaced. These additions reinforce currently existing statute and create better accountability within the process.

We must take steps to save guard the integrity of the elector process. We must have honest electors. We must support SB 1509.

Thank you for your time and support.