



**Testimony of Tobias Read, Oregon Secretary of State
In Support of SCR 201**

**Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
February 3rd, 2026**

Chair Manning and Members of the Committee,

As Oregon's Secretary of State, I am always proud to speak about the success and security of Oregon's vote-by-mail system, which our state pioneered more than two decades ago. This system is a cornerstone of voter participation in Oregon and a gold standard for the rest of the nation. Its success is largely due to the partnership between election officials and the hardworking employees of the United States Postal Service (USPS).

In our most recent major election, USPS supported the delivery of more than two million ballots cast by mail. In 2024, on a national scale, USPS delivered ballots to election officials within three days, approximately 98 percent of the time. This level of performance reflects the professionalism and commitment of USPS employees, many of whom—like election workers, have continued to serve the public while navigating natural disasters, high turnover among new employees, and ongoing federal budget constraints. Oregon is fortunate to have a dedicated postal workforce, and we deeply value their service.

We also recognize that there are opportunities for improvement, which is why our team is working on the delivery of HB 3474 (2025 Session) by providing a report on how recent changes to USPS services will impact voting by mail. Specifically, we will address current postmarking practices and how changes in processing centers may impact the delivery of ballots.

We have heard directly from county clerks and voters—particularly in rural communities, who significantly rely on the relationship with their local postmaster to ensure effective and efficient delivery of service. As demands of our postal workers continue to grow, it is critical that our federal partners provide the support that is needed to ensure their success and support these rural communities.

For decades, Oregonians have enjoyed the services of the USPS to exercise one of the fundamental rights of our democracy. We look forward to continuing this partnership to ensure that every voter can continue to rely on this great service. We join in celebrating our postal service and strongly support SCR 201.