

Submitter:

Suzanne Fernstrom

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1509

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Starr and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB 1509, which is a good governance bill that seeks to add additional security measures to our election process to ensure that presidential electors in Oregon vote faithfully and in alignment with the public's will as it relates to the President of the United States. Oregon already requires that presidential electors take a pledge to vote faithfully, and the parties themselves have robust processes to select presidential electors. However, there is 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.

Thank you for your consideration.