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## Status of Oregon's 2018 Elections Security Grant Funding

Attention: Kirstjen M. Nielsen  
MGMT/CRSO/Mailstop 0075  
Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Land, SW  
Washington, DC 20528-0075

July 20, 2018

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

Oregon sincerely appreciates your support in addressing cyberthreat activities as the gravest threat to elections security both now and in the future. As threat actors have employed advanced cyber capabilities to undermine critical infrastructure and attack the public sector, it is essential we continue to invest in our cyber defenses. Here at the office of the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS), we continue to work diligently to secure Oregon's voting infrastructure and want to give you an update as to how initial expenditures of \$3.25 million of our 2018 HAVA grant funding are being utilized.

All counties provide an annual security plan covering security measures for their entire election process including physical security of ballots, vote tally machine management, and vendor precautions (e.g. ballot printing). Before and after each election, Oregon's voting systems must be certified and tested for logic and accuracy.

SOS utilizes Defense in Depth with administrative, technical, and managerial security controls. Addressing the five key areas DHS identified for state's security enhancements (Spear phishing weaknesses; Administrative password reuse; Patch management; Unsupported operating system or application; and Clear text password disclosure), we have:

- Preventative measures implemented (patch management and hardening of systems, firewall management, Denial of Service protections, vulnerability testing, policies, and awareness training);
- Layered controls utilized for older applications and unsupported operating systems;
- Encryption implemented for clear text solutions;
- Detection and Response measures (detection tools, monitoring, Incident Management controls, etc.) in place;
- Databases backed up daily; and
- Scanned our network for vulnerabilities and routinely check for negative activity in partnership with DHS.

In addition, newer enhancements include taking a major step in our security program. By augmenting our security monitoring tools and services, and by extending our perimeter to encompass the county systems, which are a critical component of the voting ecosystem, we significantly enhance our security

posture, providing alerts to vulnerabilities, threats, attacks, and configuration or security policy violations far sooner than was previously possible.

The State of Oregon will be the first of any state to deploy a cyber defense strategy of this breadth and sophistication, and we are committed to having it in place and operating by the 2018 general election. Using the Help America Vote Act grant monies, we continue to work to secure our diverse set of assets, systems, and networks critical to the administration of the elections process.

Again, we thank you for your focus and support for elections security protections.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Dennis Richardson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Secretary Dennis Richardson,  
Oregon Secretary of State