

BARBARA SMITH WARNER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 45



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 30, 2017

The Honorable Dennis Richardson
Secretary of State
900 Court Street NE, Capitol Room 136
Salem OR 97310-0722

Dear Secretary Richardson,

We the undersigned urgently call upon you, Oregon's top elections official, to reject Kris Kobach's June 28 request to turn over our state's voter roll data. Kobach's request, on behalf of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, would only serve to legitimize false claims of massive voter fraud in last November's election.

As you explained in an interview on OPB this past February, erroneous claims like these cause "greater distrust of the government... I want to make sure that the citizens of the state can trust their [voting] system." In the same interview, you noted that you are "very concerned about the independence of state voting systems."

We share your concerns, and urge you to protect the integrity of and trust in Oregon's system by rejecting Kobach's request for information that would include full names, addresses, political affiliation, Social Security Numbers, and voter history. Per Kobach's letter, this information would be made public.

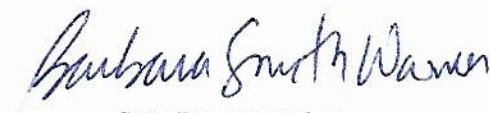
Rejecting this request is consistent with your record of protecting Oregon's elections system from outside interference. In a January 27 letter to President Donald Trump, you spoke out against "federal intrusion into Oregon's election process," and noted that you are "confident that voter fraud in last November's election did not occur in Oregon." You added: "Oregon's election and information service and security experts, along with our county clerk partners, are best equipped to protect Oregon's elections process."


When President Trump signed an executive order in May creating the Advisory Commission, you reportedly said you would decline any invitation to participate, citing Oregon's "open and honest" elections system.

Indeed, on the heels of your support during this legislative session for expanded voting access through voter reactivation and expanded pre-registration—including a pledge to "ensure full privacy of minors' personal information" under SB 802—providing this sensitive voter data to a federal task force could put a chill on voter registration in our state, and may lead to unnecessary federal policies that suppress voter participation.

Please join with Secretaries of State and Governors in California, Virginia, and Kentucky who have already responded to Kobach, and reject this federal intrusion into our state's system. We stand ready to support your efforts to protect Oregon's system—including, if necessary, through legislation to shield sensitive voter data from federal interference.

Sincerely,


State Representative
Barbara Smith Warner


State Representative
Rob Nosse