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**OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

March 22, 2024

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515-6157

Dear Chairman Steil,

I write today to answer your concerns. While the incident relating to voter history message on our office's website was unfortunate, the errors were identified and corrected. I have taken responsibility, as is my duty as Nevada's chief officer of elections.

The facts surrounding this issue have been clearly explained, including in one of the articles your letter references. The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* article by Ms. Hill, published two weeks prior to your correspondence, quotes from the memo my office prepared extensively. That memo is available on our website, and has been widely distributed to news organizations, the public at large, and elected officials across the state. It is included here as a courtesy.

To summarize: instead of 17 different county systems sending data to the state, which must by law take these disparate parts and stitch them together, a single statewide Voter Registration and Election Management System (VREMS) must be established. Assembly Bill 422 of the 2021 session of the Nevada State Legislature called for the transition to just this type of top-down system. Nevada's Democratic legislature and Republican governor came together to fund the VREMS project, and my office has been working on it day and night. The Silver State is home to leaders at every level who understand that elections are the very foundation of our democracy, and believe that foundation is worth investing in.

The most important thing in election administration is skilled, dedicated workers. The second most important thing in election administration is consistent, strategic funding. The federal government's history of funding elections in fits and starts is not in the best interest of the taxpayers. Elections are critical infrastructure, they are how our citizenry makes their voices heard, and their security is of paramount importance. When local election officials bring you their very real concerns around resources available for elections, "Congress doesn't have extra money lying around right now"¹ is not an appropriate response.

The need for consistent federal funding of elections cannot be expressed strongly enough. There will always be another glitch, another failure, another incident if the funding of our country's elections continues to be politicized. I'm grateful for a positive relationship with Nevada's

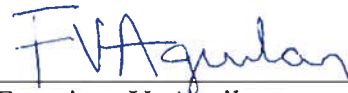
¹ <https://rollcall.com/2024/02/12/county-election-officials-call-for-security-ahead-of-2024-elections/>

congressional delegation, including Republican Congressman Mark Amodei, Chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations. I am additionally grateful for his support of reasonable federal investment in elections.

I recognize that Congress has myriad pressing concerns it must address, but it is disheartening that the Committee you lead has not held a single hearing this Congress that has called for additional federal spending on election administration, nor have any of your hearings addressed the significant and growing environment of threats and intimidation that election workers face. This is one item I suggest you turn your focus to. I work closely with the elected clerks and appointed registrars across the state of Nevada. In addition to being under-resourced, these election administrators are frequently made the targets of harassment. Addressing these threats has been a priority of mine since day one; I'm proud that we were able to pass a bipartisan bill during the 2023 Nevada legislative session to increase protections for election workers². I hope that Congress will follow Nevada's lead.

In closing, Americans may rest assured that Nevada will continue to run some of the most secure, accessible, and fair elections in the country.

Respectfully,



Francisco V. Aguilar,
Nevada Secretary of State

² <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023/Bill/10415/Overview>