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October 26, 2017

VIA UPS DELIVERY

Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

VIA UPS DELIVERY

Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
911 NE 11th Ave., Suite 630
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Senator Wyden:

Recently our company, Election Systems and Software (ES&S), was made aware of a written request from you to election providers asking for responses regarding voting system security. While ES&S has not received your letter, we do believe that you intended for us to receive it and, as such, we have proactively penned the following response.

Our mission is to “Maintain Voter Confidence and Enhance the Voting Experience.” We deliver on that mission by partnering with state and local election officials to provide accurate, secure and reliable election equipment, software and services. Security is our top priority for each voting system we develop, deploy and support. We match this commitment by continually making significant investments in research and development, resulting in continuous product and security updates for the systems we support.

As you may already know, all voting systems undergo rigorous and lengthy test campaigns as part of the Federal Voting System Test Program. As historical background, you will recall that Congress enacted the Help America Vote Act in 2002 which established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), an agency charged with adopting and maintaining a set of Voluntary Voting System Guidelines known as the VVSG. This important program sets forth security and performance standards established by the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) under the direction of the EAC with the participation of members of the election community, test laboratories, and academic institutions. Every voting system built at ES&S undergoes a lengthy and comprehensive test conducted at independent laboratories that are audited and accredited by the EAC and NIST.

To date, ES&S has received approval for 16 test campaigns under the purview of the Federal Voting System Test Program, and we will continue to submit our systems for testing under both the current and future VVSG standards. We strongly believe that even though not every state requires adherence to this vitally important Federal Voting System Test Program (Oregon is one such state that does not require this federal stamp of approval), following these established guidelines is a critically important security safeguard for our nations voting systems.

At ES&S, security is the responsibility of not just one, but all who elect to work for our company. Maintaining highly secure practices and products requires a constant investment in resources and time, and we take this responsibility seriously. ES&S has multiple safeguards in place to protect against both known and unknown threats that may present themselves including firewalls, secure programming

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practices, cyber training, regular vulnerability scans, least-privilege access and other measures considered best practices in the information security space. We also use third party software audit tools, and leverage NIST approved cryptographic modules that meet the Federal Information Processing Standard, and we carefully monitor chain of custody for our solutions using hashing and digital signature technology to safeguard the election process.

In addition to the third party Federal testing noted above, we regularly submit our systems for other independent third-party reviews (including penetration testing and source code reviews) at the request of state election authorities. We are fully committed and engaged with partnerships, learning opportunities and research opportunities that align with our collective goal of ensuring voter confidence through the development and deployment of secure voting systems.

Senator, we also understand that your inquiry seeks to ascertain if our company was the target of any known cyber attacks during the 2016 election cycle. In response to that question, we have no indication that our internal infrastructure was compromised in any way and we have zero knowledge of any data breaches or cyber attacks involving our tabulation equipment or voter registration software. As part of the recent critical infrastructure designation, ES&S met with the Department of Homeland Security, and we specifically asked them if they had knowledge of any such security issues involving ES&S to which they responded that they did not.

ES&S is committed to securing the nation's elections. The strongest mitigation to election security threats continues to be the traditional decentralized election administration model that includes voters using modern technology to securely cast their ballots in person, the use of secure, purpose-built scanning machines to tabulate these ballots, and a strong chain of custody and internal control. This environment serves to limit opportunities for bad actors and continues to be the strongest line of defense for the integrity of elections in the United States.

Senator, our 450 U.S.-based associates are passionate and proud of the work that we do every day in our support of democracy. Our response may not do justice to a topic of this magnitude. We invite you and your staff to visit us in person at our Omaha, NE headquarters and see firsthand the importance we place on the security and sanctity of the American Vote.

Sincerely,


Kathy Rogers

SVP of Governmental Relations

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