



Jena Griswold

Colorado Secretary of State

Secretary Mayorkas and Acting Director Wales,

We want to thank the Department of Homeland Security's Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) for its work countering disinformation on the electoral process. Your team's work in this space was, simply put, invaluable.

More specifically, starting in 2018 and continuing through 2020, your Countering Foreign Influence and Elections Task Forces helped states understand the disinformation threat and had the tools to counter it. These efforts included providing classified and unclassified briefings; helping states inform their residents and local media of the threat to inoculate them from it; creating rapid response plans; ensuring disinformation was part of elections exercises; and facilitating collaboration with the private sector, academia, and think tanks. We also greatly appreciated CISA's own efforts to increase Americans' resilience to disinformation, such as regularly engaging the public on the threat and communicating facts through Rumor Control.

There have been some good and bad days in the election community since November. On one hand, election officials successfully ran multiple elections during a pandemic. The general election was the most secure in recent history. On the other hand, because of disinformation, some Americans now lack confidence in the electoral process. This is unfortunate and extremely concerning. Elections are a core pillar of our democracy. Without confidence in the system, our country faces great challenges ahead.

But these problems do not mean CISA's counter disinformation efforts—its support for states and individual actions—were unsuccessful. In fact, the opposite is true. Without this work and state initiatives supported by CISA, we are confident significantly more Americans would doubt the electoral process. And we are confident the country would be in a significantly worse place.

We have a lot of work to do to fortify Americans' trust in elections. This is—hands down—one of the most important issues facing our country. Doing so will require countering disinformation on the electoral process, and state election officials need CISA's help to do so. CISA must not only continue its counter disinformation work—but increase it.

The recent Director of National Intelligence, Federal Bureau of investigation, and CISA reports highlight this need. The documents make clear how significant the disinformation threat to the electoral process was last year, noting Iran and Russia conducted sizable operations to undermine Americans' confidence in the system. But these reports do more. They also highlight that at least Russia almost certainly will continue to use disinformation to undermine our faith in elections.

We understand there may be concerns about initiatives that counter disinformation becoming mixed up with political issues. To be clear, we are not asking CISA to address disinformation on topics such as candidate's positions on economic or social issues. That absolutely is not CISA's role.

However, the electoral process—the system by which Americans register to vote, cast their ballot, and results are tallied—is not a political issue. It is a pillar of our democracy and a critical infrastructure sector. And, in our view, this absolutely is CISA's responsibility to protect. It is essential to strengthen and maintain secure, functioning, and resilient critical infrastructure. Doing so traditionally has centered on enhancing physical and cyber security. But the world has changed and so have the threats and the

defenses necessary to counter them. Addressing disinformation on the electoral process and renewing confidence in it is required to ensure its security.

Again, we cannot thank your teams enough for their work to counter disinformation the past few years. It was a huge success and shining example of how CISA and states can collaborate to secure America's elections. We hope to be able to expand these efforts moving forward.

Please let us know if you have questions. We are more than happy to discuss these issues at any point.

Sincerely,



Kevin Meyer
Lt. Governor of Alaska



Maggie Toulouse Oliver
New Mexico Secretary of State



Shirley Weber
California Secretary of State



Shemia Fagan
Oregon Secretary of State



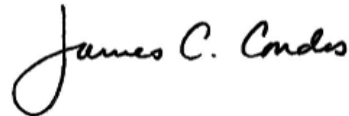
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