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One Hundred Seventeenth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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June 8, 2022

Sherry Hall
Clackamas County Clerk
1710 Red Soils Ct., Suite 100
Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear Clerk Hall:

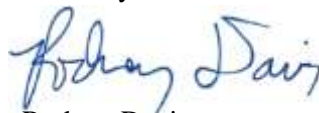
As Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, which has broad oversight of our nation's federal elections, I write today to express my concern about a recent report that up to 60,000 ballots in the recent primary election had blurry barcodes and could not be counted properly by vote-counting machines.¹

America's decentralized elections system is the best in the world, and Republicans are committed to ensuring all eligible voters who want to participate are able to cast ballots and have those ballots counted according to law. Since last Congress, I have met with Secretaries of State, Lt. Governors, and local election administrators from states as wide-ranging as Alaska, Iowa, and New York, among others, to learn about and promote the many first-rate examples of excellence in election administration across the country. Unfortunately, rather than add to those efforts, situations like this one in Clackamas County have the potential to do real damage to voter confidence in our election systems and outcomes at a time when we can least afford it.

In the interest of ensuring that all individuals eligible to vote have the opportunity to do so and that only lawful ballots are counted in the next federal election, please respond with an explanation of how these ballots came to have blurry barcodes and what remedies were taken to address the problem. Please also share any procedural or regulatory changes you will make to ensure similar incidents do not recur.

I look forward to your response. Please send your response and any questions you may have by June 30, 2022, to Caleb Hays, General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director, at Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration

¹ Gillian Flaccus and Sara Cline, *Ballot fiasco delays results in Oregon, vote-by-mail pioneer*, AP News (May 19, 2022), <https://apnews.com/article/2022-midterm-elections-oregon-primary-congress-78a759dc0b2c59b73a2259153fb8dd80>.