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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 133

Good morning, Chair Gorelow, members of the committee. My name is Aaron Ford, and I am your Attorney General. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 133 this afternoon because this proposed legislation will give our state the tools it needs to protect the security and integrity of our elections. I'd like to thank Senator Daly for bringing this bill forward.

In the 2020 election, we saw a concerted effort to undermine the results of our election and democratic processes. This manufactured, propagandistic lie that there was some sort of mass voter fraud conspiracy has damaged trust in our democratic process.

In the aftermath of the 2020 election in battleground states including Nevada, Republican electors submitted fake electoral certificates declaring former President Donald Trump the winner of the 2020 presidential election.

This was a lie. Trump did not win this election, and the fake electoral certificates were simply another propagandistic tool used to further this lie.

As you all know, I have been silent on Nevada's fake electors, except to say that the matter was on our radar. With it on our radar, we ascertained that current state statutes do not directly address the conduct in question.

I also acknowledged that we would assist the federal Department of Justice in its investigation into this matter. We maintain that willingness to assist the DOJ.

We saw, and continue to see, a contingent of folks willing to undermine our elections and democratic processes. We saw it with the harassment of poll workers. We saw it with these fake electors in Nevada and other states. And we saw it during the insurrection in our nation's Capital on Jan. 6, 2021.

With this bill, Nevada law will make clear that those who involved in sheningans in which Nevada's fake electors engaged can be held accountable. It spells out neatly – in Section 1, Subsection 8 – what it means to create, conspire to create and to serve in a false slate of presidential electors.

It would allow our office – or the Secretary of State's office, as appropriate – to claim the costs of investigation and prosecution of those involved from those convicted, as decided by a court.

As long as I am Attorney General, I will never stop fighting against those seeking to undermine our elections. I will never stop fighting against those that seek to undermine our democracy. And this bill gives my office tools to do just that. I urge your support.

Thank you.