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**Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos
Issues Official Statement on Postponement of the Secure Elections Act**

Montpelier, VT – Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos has issued the following statement regarding postponement of the Secure Elections Act by the Senate Rules Committee.

“As Vermont’s Secretary of State, I appreciate Congressional assistance with the security of our elections. However, it is important that any legislation passed by Congress regarding election administration includes funding for states to have the resources necessary to continue our work protecting the integrity of our electoral process.

I applaud the intent behind the Secure Elections Act, and thank Congress for making it a priority. That said, I believe it was correct to delay a vote today to allow the legislation to be further refined and improved. It’s imperative that this work is guided by the input of Secretaries of State and state election officials, who best know the needs of our individual election administration systems.

I absolutely think audits are necessary and paper ballots are a best practice, but the legislation needs to acknowledge that there is more than one way to achieve these goals and arrive at a place where these best practices are working. As election administrators we do not need overly prescriptive language for election procedures like audits, but language that enables states to audit with confidence and the funding necessary to enable states to move forward in an ongoing, sustainable way.

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again – cybersecurity is a race without a finish line, not a one-time expenditure. The \$380 Million in HAVA funds appropriated by Congress are absolutely necessary in supporting states to upgrade aging elections infrastructure and to strengthen the election cybersecurity measures that we have put in place to protect the integrity of our elections. However, I personally believe that states need sustainable, ongoing, and dedicated resources to ensure that we can stay one step ahead of the bad actors who are attacking the very core of our democracy.

It is my understanding that a number of Secretaries of State expressed concern with the bill as written, both Democrat and Republican. I look forward to engaging with members of Congress in future discussions around the Secure Elections Act, and hope that work on this bill going forward is done with direct input of Secretaries from states across the country.”

The Secure Elections Act was scheduled for markup in the Senate Rules Committee on August 22nd, but markup of the legislation has been postponed.

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