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TOWN OF VERNON

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Senator Musto, Representative Julita & Members of the GAE

RSB 901 AAC Post-Election Audits

My Name is Judith Beaudreau; I am an Election Administrator / Registrar of Voters for the Town of Vernon, CT. I would like to support this bill. I first saw this process in Washington DC at a conference filled with mathematicians and engineers where they were trying to figure what percentage had to be audited to calculate that the voting machine was working correctly. At this conference I found a couple of people who were working on this project to scan all Election Day Ballots in a matter of hours to find that the votes were getting counted correctly by the current Tabulators that CT was using. At that time and currently we are doing hand counting of all ballots that have gone into the tabulator on Election Day. This is a tedious and unimaginable process. It is painful to observe and it show us how bad we actually are at counting by hand. We have had to redo our counts several times. With a certified machine I have seen the process done many times and it is amazing to see how fast it can be done and how accurate it seems to be. I have had my ballots done for a couple of years. This last Election Vernon was selected to have its district 3 audited. We proceeded to do the audit. First let me explain I used people between the ages of 25 - 35 with good vision. After we had counted twice and 7 hours, I proceeded to send everyone home and 4 of us repeated the process. We were tired but finally managed to come within 5 votes in most cases. A month later I had those same ballots done by an audit machine where this one district was completely done in 3 hours and I visually saw the 6 ballots that it was questioning. After the reviewing of those 6 ballots, we determined that the tabulator actually counted the ballots votes. On completion of this process my end of night tapes and the audit was a mirror image. Right on the money!!! (VOTES)!!! What better way to show transparency on my Election. If I was allowed to use these types of machines I would insist on putting these scans up on my web site for all voters to see, that way Voters who say "Did my vote actually count?" I can say YES.... Please vote in favor of this important bill. It will help my tired eyes in doing hand audits, It will save our municipalities money and show our average voters that we are not hiding anything. Because a machine if calculated correctly can usually do better than a human!!! The tabulators that we are using, even though they are old technology, I can truthfully say that in my instances, have counted Vernon Voters votes correctly!!!! I am available to assist in any information that the committee needs on this subject.