



TESTIMONY BY THE BUS PROJECT – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE BILL (HB 3475)

Oregon's rising generation is the largest and most diverse generation in state history. Yet, while youth voting has steadily increased over the past decade, young people are still far less likely to vote than older citizens. This generation has the potential to have a lasting, positive legacy on the state, but we are doing too little to educate them as active citizens now.

**THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE WILL DRAMATICALLY INCREASE YOUTH VOTING IN THE STATE OF OREGON.**

The Bus Project engages new folks in democracy, builds a great future and empowers great people to lead it, right here in the state of Oregon. Democracy works better when more people do it. There is no question that electing the president by the national popular vote WILL increase the participation of youth voting. In 2012, two-thirds of the 2012 general election events (176 of 253) were in just 4 states (Ohio, Florida, Virginia and Iowa). Oregon was one of thirty eight states that were totally ignored.

The national popular vote is good for Oregon and good for the country. Since every vote will be equal under National Popular Vote, candidates would visit the state, poll our opinions, advertise here and organize here. Volunteers would not have to travel to Ohio or Pennsylvania to have impact, they would talk to neighbors. A vote in Oregon would be just as valuable as a vote in Ohio or Florida. Over \$10 million dollars was raised by both parties in Oregon in 2012 and every dollar was exported to a battleground state and not one cent stayed in Oregon.

As we have talked to young voters in Oregon, there is no question that they feel that their vote for president does not really count and that there is no real purpose to be served by casting a vote for president. We also know that if a young voter does not register to vote in the first election they qualify to vote, it is very unlikely they will EVER register to vote. What kind of message are we sending to our young voters under the current system of electing the president? The message is that their vote does not count and the only votes that are important are those of voters in five or six battleground states.

Oregon is known around the country for its high voter participation rates but we can do better. It is time for the young voters of Oregon to be empowered in their vote for president. Please join the states of Hawaii, Washington, California, Illinois, Maryland, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Vermont and the District of Columbia who have passed the National Popular Vote bill.

The Bus Project is proud of its efforts to date to create a volunteer-drive democracy for our generation. The National Popular Vote bill is an important step in that process.

Sincerely,  
Nathan Howard, Interim Executive Director