

To the members of the committee.

I am writing today to express and urge a NO vote to the National Popular Vote in Oregon effort under Senate Bill 1512.

The Supporters of this bill are touting that Oregon Voters are being not being respected because they are touting that the numbers should respect raw voting numbers. We hear allot about “We the people” and Democracy in these calls.

I remind this panel of the Article IV, Section 4 of the United States Constitution. Which this state has joined on February 14th in the year 1859. The Section reads:

“Article IV Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature can-not be convened) against domestic Violence.”

This portion of that document confirms that the United States is not a Democracy as many tout. It is founded as a Constitutional Republic. The founders of this nation were wise in trying to avoid letting higher population states from being able to dominate lower population states in the Presidential elections.

The simple fact of it is, though this state is a wonderful state. I was born and raised in Eastern Oregon in Hermiston. I know first hand how heavy handed a higher population region can dominate a lower population region.

If Oregon joins the NPV effort. Then this state will have the luxury of allowing areas such as New York City region in the East, Chicago area in the Midwest, Dallas/Ft Worth area of Texas and the Southern California region of greater Los Angeles and San Diego in California override Oregon voters due to their relative population numbers. Despite the growth in Oregon.. there is no way that this state could hope to compete to the large population centers in the nation.

I warn this committee that the idea of Oregon joining the NPV effort will in a sense be submitting this state to the will of already established population centers of this nation. The will of the Oregon voters will be dictated by other larger cities. I urge this committee to NOT adopt National Popular Vote in Oregon.

If NPV should be made possible in this country. Then let it be by the effort to have the Amendment of the US Constitution first, passed in the House and the Senate of the government of the United States first. THEN this body can determine if Oregon would ratify the amendment. If enough states in this nation do that.. THEN you can change the way our Presidents are determined in this nation.

That is the process as laid out in the US Constitution. That is what I learned in Government class when I was in Hermiston High School.. Why does this body want to circumvent that effort by passing the effort now?

Thank you the members of the committee for your time and trouble.

Frank Martin
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