



To: House Rules Committee
Re: Small Donor Elections
Date: February 8, 2018

Chair Williamson and fellow committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Hannah Taube, I am the Interim Director of the Oregon Working Families Party, and I am here to testify in support of the passage of a Small Donor Elections reform in Oregon.

The Oregon Working Families Party is committed to fighting for a just democracy where the voices Oregon's most vulnerable communities can be heard loud and clear. That's why we are part of the Voice for All Oregon Coalition, a diverse grassroots coalition of organizations on the front lines of advancing the interests of Oregon residents including women, people of color, small businesses, and LGBTQ individuals. We are committed to bringing balance to our democracy by creating a small donor elections system in Oregon.

The Oregon Working Families Party represents over 10,000 registered voters in Oregon who know that our democracy is broken if monied interests and corporations have more of an impact on who gets elected than the voices of working people across our state. Low wage workers and working families need representation in our government from candidates who will be steadfast in standing up for them, not for corporations. One of the concerns we hear most often from our voters is that we need to find solutions to get big money out of politics, and support candidates that truly represent our values despite an electoral system that seems rigged against that.

The Small Donor Elections bill will ensure every voice matters in Oregon politics by making small donors a more powerful force in elections and reducing the need for candidates to rely on wealthy donors.

We believe Oregon needs a Small Donor Elections program to raise up the voices of everyday Oregonians in our elections; and better ensure the integrity of our elections.

By creating a small donor election program in Oregon we can help make sure the people and communities that are historically disenfranchised, are centered in our democracy. Participating candidates who agree to accept contributions only from small donors will have these contributions matched six-to-one with limited public funds. That way, candidates can spend more time talking to ordinary people rather than raising money from affluent ones.

Thank you for your time. The Small Donor Elections bill is a popular proposal that would address deep voter concern that our government is not working for everyday people. As a member of The Oregon Working Families Party, I strongly support the Small Donor Elections program. I urge you to pass the Small Donor Election program swiftly this legislative session to recenter our communities in Oregon's democracy.

Thank You

Hannah Taube
Interim Executive Director,
Oregon Working Families Party