

My name is Ken Taylor, and I live in Prineville. HB 2306 has a number of serious flaws that do not merit passage. The effect of this bill will designate all county and city elections as nonpartisan across the entire state, and that will eliminate the role of the precinct committee persons in submitting suggestions for candidates in the case of a vacancy in local public office.

Local control over the public election process is critical to good governance. HB 2306 will concentrate control at the state capitol instead of the local community where it belongs. There is no sensible rationale in requiring all races to be non-partisan, instead of respecting each locality to decide based on the will of its voters. Eliminating the active participation of the street level Precinct Committee Person (PCP) in offering candidates for vacant positions separates the citizen one more step from officials that should be accountable to them rather than centralized state government. The basis of self-determination demands that these selections be done at the most basic level.

There appears to be an effort to eliminate the public office of PCP altogether. Again this flies in the face of our Constitutional government of the people, establishing through their consent which candidate will represent them. HB 2306, whether intentional or unintentional, will have the effect of creating a top down rule of centralized government rather than depending on the most elemental citizen involvement in the process in the form of the Precinct Committee Person.

Respectfully, please pass this testimony on to all members of the Rules Committee. I urge the committee to vote No on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Regards,

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