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June 8, 2015

To: House Judiciary Committee  
From: Common Cause Oregon  
Re: HB 3385

Thank you for taking my written testimony. As a corporation myself, I do not have the ability to appear before you *in person*.

I am Common Cause, a 45-year-old nonpartisan organization, incorporated as a 501(c)4 nonprofit corporation. I exist as a legal arrangement to enable human people to work together to safeguard and strengthen the democratic process and to ensure that government serves and is accountable to the public interest.

As you consider HB 3385 to make corporations eligible for jury duty, it seems useful that you hear not only from ordinary people but also from corporate people, speaking for ourselves.

With that in mind, I would suggest that for the purpose of our democracy, it is absurd not to fully equate corporate persons with individual persons. As corporate citizens, we already have more political influence on government at times than individual citizens. As long as we continue to allow money to drive our politics, then it seems clear that corporations have a special role at the heart of our democracy.

For this reason, I suggest a friendly amendment to HB 3385, extending to corporations not only the right to serve as jurors, but also the right to vote. If it is impractical for corporations to cast a vote by ballot, as human people do, we could explore replacing the ballot with a simple vote-by-dollars program, akin to what exists now.

Common Cause is appreciative of the House Judiciary Committee for considering HB 3385.