

May 18, 2017

Chair Williamson and House Rules Committee Members:

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2927, a bill to sign Oregon onto the National Popular Vote compact and ensure every Oregonians' vote truly counts in presidential elections.

I wasn't old enough to vote in the 2000 presidential election, but I was old enough for it to serve as my first civics lesson--and, ultimately, my first lesson in how American democracy can fail to live up to its ideals. I was, of course, old enough to vote in the 2016 election, so I felt even more--and more personally--wronged by the absurd outcome. I represent a generation that has seen the result of two elections not represent the will of the people. We are losing our faith in the American political system.

The National Popular Vote compact will go a long way toward restoring that faith. It is a smart, legal fix that takes advantage of states' right to decide how they allocate their electoral votes to ensure that the winner of the national popular vote becomes president. It will end the disenfranchisement and underrepresentation of Oregon voters (especially Oregon Republican voters) by giving candidates incentive to visit our state, hear our concerns, and, once elected, represent our interests. Our neighbors in Washington and California, along with eight other states, have already recognized the many benefits of the National Popular Vote compact and signed on. Please, let's join them. Forward HB2927 to the full House so it can receive a vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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