

Dear Senate Rules Committee Members,

I am very strongly opposed to S.B. 368. Please do not let this anti-democratic bill out of committee. The sponsors of SB 368 would have us believe that this is a well-intentioned bill to help clarify the initiative process. It instead is actually a deceptive power grab by those who don't want Oregonians to have the free speech rights of petitioners. The bill is unconstitutional, because there is no separate vote requirements for county charter amendments. County Clerks do not have this ability and should not have this ability. They are unqualified to make decisions like this, and it also violates the separation of powers between the executive and judicial branches of the Oregon government.

This bill doesn't clarify existing law, it creates a new unconstitutional law that drastically undermines the initiative process. This bill was created by powerful special interests that want to undermine the ability of the people of Oregon to use the initiative process. If you support this bill, you are showing your true colors on who you side with: the people of Oregon and democracy or these special interests.

David Tvedt