

Dear House Rules Committee:

I am dismayed to learn that SB 870 related to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is being considered by your committee.

This bill would fundamentally change our Presidential election process. An effective republic demands that the citizens of smaller states are not brushed aside. A candidate must impress upon each State that he or she will represent that State's interests in order to gain its electoral votes. Changing our electoral system to a popular vote would in fact ensure that the voters of Oregon and other less populated States will never have a voice again.

If the electoral votes of Oregon are determined by what voters nationwide and in particular in large urban centers desire, then candidates will no longer bother to address the needs of Oregon's voters. Consider that the 6 Counties that make up the greater Los Angeles community have a population of 19 million while the entire state of Oregon has slightly more than 4 million. Why would any candidate for President put energy in Oregon when winning the votes of Los Angeles gets you almost 5 times the number of votes? Your constituents deserve a voice in the presidential election do not take that from them.

I ask you to vote NO on the NPV. It is an attack on the Constitution that will forever change our representative form of government. Our country would be in crisis and if successful, Oregon and similar small state's voices will be permanently diminished or even extinguished in the Presidential election. Even if you support the concept of a national popular vote, I ask you to have the courage to vote NO on this bill and instead force a Constitutional amendment to change the way we elect our President. All Americans deserve the right to weigh in on this subject.

Thank you for your consideration

Jean Thomas

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