



DAN RAYFIELD  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 16

May 23, 2019

To Honorable Paul Holvey  
House Rules Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street

RE: HB 2983-6

Dear Chair Holvey and member of the Committee:

Below are responses to questions and concerns, raised on May 22, 2019, regarding some aspects of HB 2983-6.

**Addressing concerns regarding the definition of a “political committee”**

1. Adding ‘primary purpose’ to the definition of ‘political committee’ in Oregon statute is unnecessary and in fact may lead to the very issue being raised in the letter. Oregon’s definition of “political committee” used to include “primary and incidental purpose” and it was deleted to be more precise and to not impact organizations like the ACLU and others.
2. Oregon Statute connects the activity of a ‘political committee’ to supporting/opposing a clearly identified candidate or measure. In contrast, other states define ‘political committee’ differently. For example, New Mexico’s definition of political committee applied whenever an entity spent more than \$500 on a “political purpose.”
3. In Oregon, the activity has to be for a particular purpose, not just some general “political activity.” The letter ignores the key point of our system; expending money does not make an organization a “political committee” but rather raising money for the purpose of influencing an election does. ORS 230.005(18)
4. An organization only becomes a political committee if it raises money for the specific purpose of influencing a candidate or measure campaign. Raising money for general public policy advocacy, including having resources available to respond to timely public policy debate (raised by measures or candidate debates) is fine, so long as it is not earmarked for a specific or particular purpose -- and reported.

**Concerns regarding donor intent and identity protection**

5. The letter conflates the disclosure of donors for political committee with “covered organization.” We have sought to exempt donations that are expressly not permitted to be used for political activities, with the presumption being that other donations may be used for political activities as permitted by the IRS. In other words, we are paying attention to donor intent, but just have the presumption switched.

Sincerely,

Representative Dan Rayfield

