

www.commoncause.org/or

Oregon Holding Power Accountable

To: Senate Rules Committees

From: Kate Titus, Common Cause Oregon

Re: SJR 18, Referral to Voters for Campaign Finance Regulation

Date: June 3, 2019

Common Cause

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works for open, honest, accountable government. We're more than one million Americans – including 25,000 Oregonians – working together to realize the unfinished promise of democracy.

Position on SJR 18

Common Cause strongly supports passage of a referral to the ballot to amend the constitution, clarifying authority to regulate money in politics. We reiterate the opinion expressed by others that the -A10 amend is unnecessary and potentially confusing.

For the record, we also note abundant evidence of both the need and the strong public support for Oregon to limit money in politics in order to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption in the political process. As documented in the press, Oregon has among the most expensive campaigns per capita, and ranks worst in the country for corporate cash to lawmakers. Across party lines, the public is fed up with money in politics.

1