

17 March 2021

To: Senate Committee on Rules

Re: Senate Joint Resolution 4

Dear Chair Senator Wagner, Vice-Chair Senator Girod, and members of the Committee:

It is not possible that I could be more opposed to SJR 4. It is beyond me to imagine the effort required in addition to the expenses incurred to tax payers of conducting a vote to amend our state constitution. And to what purpose? So the current majority party holders can have their own way? That is precisely what this bill appears to be. Decreasing the legislative quorum is not beneficial to Oregonians.

Why does the portion of each house needed in attendance for a quorum to conduct business require modifying? Think about that. The answer is, it doesn't. Why in the world do the 4.3 million citizens or our state need even fewer people—alleged *representatives*—calling the shots? The very idea of it is ridiculous. Using that logic, why have a quorum at all? Why not just listen to one voice?

It is even further beyond imagination to understand why, particularly during an emergency, fewer legislative members would be thought to be able to better deal with any given situation. In an emergency—more information and input is valuable. Not less.

The portion of this bill changing quorum requirements following declaration of catastrophic disaster by the Governor is seriously a misguided concept. The sponsor(s) of this bill are simply slipping *emergency* into this ill conceived legislation to make it sound more necessary, more meaningful, more important than it is. We must have less input in the debate because this is an emergency! A more non-nonsensical protocol can hardly be imagined.

It would appear to be obvious to all that this bill is not concerned with requiring the optimum number of legislators in session to make the best possible decision(s) for all Oregonians.

This bill is only about lowering the number, as well as the valuable input from certain members of the legislature. Precisely those members that are not *in favor* with the current ruling party.

Upon first viewing, this proposal might hold some water. But given more consideration this is a meaningless bill and a waste of the Committee's time. If this bill is passed out of committee it will merely show voters that retribution is the aim, not benefiting Oregonians.

Again I urge you to table Senate Joint Resolution 4 and use your time more wisely.

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner