

17March2021
White City
Oregon
97503

Chair Wagner and members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

I write in strong opposition to the efforts to silence the minority voices in the State of Oregon. The quorum rule provides representatives the ability to force the majority party to the negotiating table. If the quorum rule were to be eliminated it would allow the majority party the ability to run roughshod over the lesser half of Oregon. Both parties have used the quorum rule to their favor, so this is not a partisan argument. My fear is for the future of Oregon. If the quorum rule is eliminated, future Oregon will undergo massive swings in general policy every couple of years. Some elected officials believe that getting legislation passed is the only true sign of progress, while the average Oregon citizen knows that the more legislation that is passed translates into the more money they will lose in taxes and more of their freedoms will evaporate. The citizens of Oregon do not want Oregon to be radically changed every couple of years; we prefer slow thoughtful change that has buy in from all sides. The quorum rule protects the citizens of Oregon from becoming the prey of the ruling party. The quorum rule helps to ensure a truly representative government exists in Oregon. Without it, Oregon will slip into a despotism of party.

I beg you to oppose all attempts to end the quorum rule including SB 261, SB 262, SJR 3, and SJR 4. These dictatorial rule changes cannot be allowed to pass.

Sincerely,

Erik Maddocks