



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Holvey, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

For the record, my name is Karl Koenig and I'm the President of the Oregon State Firefighters Council (OSFFC). The OSFFC represents over 47 International Association of Fire Fighter (IAFF) locals and over 3500 full-time, fire fighters, paramedics, wildland and fire prevention service professionals. For 85 years our mission is to conduct a legislative program to cultivate friendship and good fellowship among our members through legislation and education.

As part of this work, the OSFFC believes elections in Oregon should be about promoting ideas that make our lives better – not about how rich an individual is. That is why I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the OSFFC and our IAFF locals to show our support for House Bill 2680.

As dedicated public servants, we value the ability for our members to participate in our electoral process – using their collective voice to make political change. We believe this is fundamental to a thriving democracy and is put at risk when large wealthy super-donors or large corporate contributors dump their unlimited funds into campaigns throughout the states. HB 2680 takes aim at leveling the playing field by incentivizing grassroots organizing and involvement of everyday people in political decisions.

Ultimately, HB 2680 will work to counter big money in elections – helping to transform Oregon politics. We look forward to an Oregon where legislators are free to better represent their constituents. This can only happen if we bolster the diversity of donors, officeholders, and candidates. In the end, these changes will no doubt enhance public confidence in our elections and our government.

At the OSFFC, we believe that it's the responsibility of the state to ensure every candidate, no matter their income level, has a fair opportunity to run and win. Please level the playing field and add a heightened level of transparency and oversight to our elections and pass House Bill 2680.

Respectfully,

s/Karl Koenig

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