

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice the importance of HB 3343 today. While the testimony being shared with you all is my own personal view, I'm sure that many of the 1,763,276 Oregonians who voted in favor of Measure 107 also share similar perspectives.

I am a student of natural resources and ecological restoration at Oregon State University, which is in Representative Rayfield's district, and have been horrified at the decisions many different elected officials around the country have made over the years. The most recent example I can provide occurred just weeks ago in Georgia where over 100 blatantly racist laws, aimed at suppressing black citizens their American right to vote, were passed.

I am confident that the men and women who made and passed these laws do not represent the majority of the individuals for whom they govern. I have more faith in the majority of Americans than that. Instead, these elected officials represent wealthy individuals in their community who were able to contribute large sums of money, ensuring that the candidate who supports their own personal agenda has the stronger campaign, not the candidate who would best represent the majority population.

I appreciate that HB 3343 would allow campaigns to occur on an even playing field and a transparent one at that, allowing individuals to know who is financially supporting certain legislators. The only reason I can think of as to why this is not already a rule is that these companies or individuals are frightened of losing money and want to fund their agenda even if it negatively affects their clients or customers. With that being said, I feel like it is my right to ensure that my money is going to someone who supports what I believe will benefit a larger chunk of the community rather than a small percentage of wealthy individuals. By supporting HB 3343, issues and opinions that may have been overlooked in the past could finally have a voice that is just as loud as one that may have been overly funded in the past, and politicians will also finally see and hear what is truly important to their constituents. Assuming they haven't just been ignoring them this whole time....

I understand that House Bill 2680 is appealing but, house bill 3343 would actually help elect individuals that truly care about how different decisions affect their constituents as well as the future of Oregon. It would provide the opportunity for someone who actually wants to help the greater good run for office.

I have also heard and seen the success surrounding bills similar to HB 3343 that different cities have implemented, and I think that is important evidence to consider as well. Many have even added donor-matching systems helping to increase public funding to candidates who would be a great fit to run against what would have historically been a more funded candidate. I think a program such as this could be a game-changing addition to HB 3343.

Supporting HB 3343 and not HB 2680 will help voters feel like their voices and opinions are being heard and that their individual contributions towards campaigns can actually make a difference. That their words and actions are indeed powerful and capable of invoking change regardless of how deep their pockets aren't.

Thank you,
Rachel Petersen