



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2680**  
**UFCW Local 555**  
**March 30, 2021**

**To: Chair Smith-Warner, Vice Chairs Drazen and Holvey, and members of the committee**  
**From: United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555**  
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Dear Chair Smith-Warner, Vice Chairs Drazen and Holvey, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Sam Hughes, and I work in the Communications Department at United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555.

As a union member I know that many voices united are far stronger than any voice alone. I also know that money talks, and only a few wealthy donors and corporations have much money to spare to political campaigns. Everyday Oregonians deserve to have our voices heard on a level playing field when politicians make decisions that directly impact our lives. Small-donor PACs empower everyday Oregonians to come together as workers, neighbors, and communities and get involved in those political decisions.

I would not be speaking to you here today if I hadn't been empowered by my own union's small-donor PAC. After leaving school, I struggled to balance giving back to my community with making ends meet. I became a deli clerk at Fred Meyer and was thrilled to learn it was a unionized position. While there was little I could afford at the time, signing up for our Active Ballot Club was no question. It was reassuring to know that with a few dollars a month, I could join my coworkers pushing for better working and living conditions.

The benefits materialized almost immediately: shortly after I started working in the deli, I learned that our days of clopenings and completely unpredictable schedules were coming to an end thanks to Fair Workweek. UFCW Local 555 was instrumental in passing Fair Workweek thanks to the Active Ballot Club. It was gratifying to know that workers were making a difference together.

This was also exciting and inspiring. Wanting to get more involved, I became a shop steward eager to help my coworkers understand their new, expanded rights at work. Local 555 empowered me to go a step further and assist in designing Fair Workweek educational materials for members across the region. Since joining staff, I've learned there are countless ways members make their voices heard, thanks to many of us chipping in to make a difference through our Active Ballot Club. Small-donor PACs like ours in combination with public financing can give power back to the people in making decisions that affect them and their families.

The small-donor 6-1 match is especially exciting. In an economy suffering under massive income inequality, I feel even more confident my donations make a difference when they're matched. Wealthy donors and corporations don't need to make significant sacrifices to make sizable donations, but everyday Oregonians literally can't afford that luxury. Small-donor matching levels the playing field for working people who want to make a difference.

Small-donor PACs with public financing amplify the voices of the public when politicians make decisions that impact their working and living conditions. Please, pass HR 2680 to make our electoral process accessible to everyday Oregonians. Thank you.