

Margie Trifari
RepresentUs Oregon
Volunteer State Leader

To: House Rules Committee Chair Barbara Smith Warner, vice-chairs Christine Drazan and Paul Hovey, esteemed members Daniel Bonham, Julie Fahey, Andrea Salinas, and Jack Zika

Special thanks for presenting measure HB 2680
Chief Sponsors: Representative Rayfield
Regular Sponsors: Representative Holvey, Hudson, Marsh, Nathanson, Neron, Power, Reardon, Reynolds, Wilde, Williams, Senator Dembrow,

Thanks as well for the presentation of HB 3343
Chief Sponsors: Representative Salinas, Clem
Regular Sponsors: Representative Alonso Leon, Dexter, Hudson, Lively, Meek, Neron, Nosse, Pham, Power, Reardon, Ruiz, Schouten, Sollman, Senator Frederick, Golden, Jama

THANK YOU ALL. I AM COMPELLED TO RECOGNIZE YOUR LEADERSHIP IN REPRESENTING THE CONCERNS OF OREGON VOTERS AND YOUR GUARDIANSHIP OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

RE: Support of Measure HB 3343

On behalf of myself and most of our 1,000 + Oregon members, I would like to add my support to measure HB 3343. With respect to the degree of analysis and review required from committee members, I would like to defer the details of my support to testimonies I have read that support my stance. The testimonies I am referring to are those of:
Dan Meek, Independent Party and Honest Elections,
David Delk, Alliance for Democracy
Norman Turrill, League of Women Voters
Kate Titus, Common Cause

These people present my case with more eloquence and detail than I could, and echoing their expressions will spare you my lame attempts to echo their ideals as well as they have stated. I hope this will suffice.

I have one thing to add, as a citizen, speaking for myself. I have never understood how large contribution limits bears any resemblance to our democratic ideal of equality.

I, as an individual am limited, by circumstances alone, as just one example in my ability to contribute but – no 2nd option for me. 1 person = 1 contribution ... seems balanced, makes sense.

One citizen = 1 vote Balance

We would not be discussing this if no one thought contributions were an essential element of the election process, which is why I am so concerned about maintaining a healthy balance. Equal representation is a fair representation, whether it be dollars or votes. Yes, it is more complicated than that, but nonetheless true.

Whatever limits you set will likely be out of reach for many Oregonians, perhaps even most, so the balance already has shifted in a direction that strays from the concept of equality, if it is held to a standard of 1 person = 1 donation. The shift does not end there.

It is not enough for people of means to be able to donate more than their less fortunate, counterparts, but they can also create a non-human entity, whether it be a corporation or a pac or whatever is allowed. This provides the person's who control that entity an entitlement of a 2nd ability to contribute, thus widening the equality gap.
Please keep the limits low. Thank you for hearing me.

Margie Trifari