

Submitter: Erin Thurber  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR16

Dear Committee Members:

One of the reasons the U.S. Founding Fathers felt having impeachment powers in the Constitution was to help prevent government officials' misconduct in office. It was considered a pillar of democratic government.

Oregon is the only state lacking this Constitutional protection. The reasons Oregon's Fathers neglected including this type of provision was unclear and not well reasoned.

Probably one reason was the limited population. Recall works well when issues and actors are well known and understood. Such is not the case today. Few Oregonians know the issues, and many views are not well represented by legislators, radio, and newspapers.

The percentage of people registered to vote in Oregon is not good. Much of the population is laxadesiacal, and many feel their government does not pay attention to critical issues.

The several recall attempts on our last two governors show the above to be true. The resignation of our Secretary of State (first in line to Kotec) is another example. It remains to be seen how Kotec does in office.

I am neither Republican nor Democrat. I do, however, feel it proper to urge and support good legislation from whatever party it originates.

This is something I helped originate about twelve years ago. I have long awaited for this legislation to have consideration. I would be happy to discuss this with you.

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