

February 14, 2024

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair
Senators Sara Gelser Blouin, Dennis Linthicum and James Manning
Senate Judiciary Committee
Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Re: Comments Concerning Proposed Amendment -4 (LC 228), SB 1576

I am Joe Patnode, and am including important additional testimony opposing SB 1576 -4 Amendment. The Constitution is structured to provide checks and balances in government so that too much power is not placed in the hands of a few. Although it has the appearance of being simple, benign, and fair, by offering “choices” to our county government, this amendment is dangerous for Gilliam County. It allows our government, on their own, the power to change our government structure without asking the people if they approve or not. The spirit of checks and balances in the Constitution is tarnished by this amendment, by placing a great amount of power in the hands of a few.

Please remember this quote, “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely”.

Respectfully,

Joe Patnode
Arlington, Oregon