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This bill is a sham.

It has suddenly appeared in the short session for a public hearing with almost no public notice and without the actual text being available until less than 24 hours prior to the hearing. This after 3 legislative sessions in which no campaign finance reform limits bills have been put before the whole legislature. But now HB 4024 is being rushed into a public hearing.

Why this bill now?

Because the big money power brokers in Oregon are frightened of a very popular Campaign Finance Reform petition that is currently out on the streets. That petition, known as IP 9, sets real limits on donations to candidates, and set requirements for true transparency regarding large donors.

IP 9 is the work of a coalition of "good government groups" known as Honest Elections. This coalition has worked for years to craft good quality, effective campaign finance laws. Three of these laws have already been passed by the voters in Oregon, Multnomah County, and Portland--with very high approval ratings -- each of them passed with by a 78-90% margin.

As a coalition we work with national experts on this issue. We consulted with various other interested parties throughout Oregon. We listened to their concerns & incorporated many of these concerns into various versions of a limits bill. IP 9 is our current product of these decades of work.

These same power brokers have already tried to undermine IP 9 by 1) stealing our petition language, 2) punching large donation loopholes into it and 3) making a sham of the transparency requirements. Their fake petition, IP 42, is now out on the streets collecting signatures. IP 42 is not a sincere attempt to create CFR limits. It's just an attempt scare Honest Elections off from continuing with IP 9 and to confuse voters with a second "campaign finance reform" measure on the November ballot.

But it hasn't worked. So now the backers of IP 42 are faced with the difficult task of conducting an actual petition drive. Perhaps they've concluded that it's too hard & too expensive, so they are falling back on their old tried & true method of throwing their big donor weight around at the Oregon Legislature.

Alliance for Democracy is not going to comment on any particulars of HB 4024.

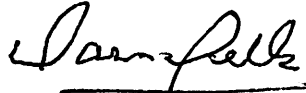
There's no need. Its mere existence proves our entire point: when big money donors start throwing their weight around, politicians jump.

If members of the Oregon legislature sincerely care about true campaign finance reform, they could simply refer our measure, IP 9, to the voters. That could be done in less time than this hearing will take.

Thank you,



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