

Thank you to the esteemed members of the Rules Committee for this opportunity to testify. I am grateful to Oregon's citizen legislators who step up for this so important role and dedicated effort in making our state work.

Let's be clear: the core motivation for campaign finance reform is **Election Integrity**, including for both candidates and ballot measures.

My name is Gary Lietke, an election integrity activist in both the state and Multnomah County Democratic Parties.

My first comment is that holding this hearing to amend HB 4024 to amend a placeholder bill without publicly posting the proposed substitution text until the morning of the day before its hearing blatantly defies the integrity intent of holding public hearings on proposed legislation. Certainly, there must be more advance public notice in order to make possible adequate public awareness of the text, much less reasonable time to prepare testimony for a hearing. Such timing practice is a mockery of the intent of public hearings, particularly given the extreme complexity of the proposed amendment text and its profound long-term effects.

As to the bill amendment text itself:

- 1) The primary motivation for this bill and for numerous past and future ballot measures addressing the same issues is implementing the intent of Oregon **Measure 107**, a constitutional amendment passed by almost 4/5th of voters Nov 3, 2020—3 ¼ years ago. Its demand was for state legislature and local governments to **(1) enact laws or ordinances limiting campaign contributions and expenditures; (2) require disclosure of contributions and expenditures; and (3) require that political advertisements identify the people or entities that paid for them.**
- 2) Yet this legislature in 2 subsequent long sessions, 1 short session, and now this short session, has failed to implement the will of the people!
- 3) Simply stated, **the underlying purpose of these reforms is to prevent money influence from giving advantage-- to the voices with money or those they favor who have less money.** In other words, election integrity should be based on the merit of the proposed ideas, not by financial resources.
- 4) It is *critically important that this HB 4024 legislative implementation bill does not fudge or disempower the intent of Measure 107 voters. Any language that provides exceptions to any voice empowered by money, that doesn't provide for full transparency of contributions and expenditures—undermines the intent of Measure 107.*
- 5) Not that I saw it included in the proposed text, but **small donor public financing is also a very helpful secondary complementary CFR step**, but *only if added to legislation that rigorously restricts advantages to voices with access to money and provides for full transparency and disclosure.*
- 6) *A pivotal flaw in current campaign finance policy is the pragmatic effect that those with less money are forced to "please" donors with lots of money in order to receive donations.*
- 7) Overall, **soft or leaky campaign finance reform is only pretend and ineffective reform.**
- 8) **True campaign finance reform is the best way to make it possible for the ideas from all voices to compete fairly to directly earn the support of voters.**
- 9) **In conclusion, unless this committee, the legislature, and the public are first engaged to meaningfully analyze and publicly debate the language of the proposed amendment, it must NOT be irresponsibly rushed for further approval in the legislative process.** I echo the comments of Kate Titus re the need for enormously more real heavy-duty collaborative work in this short session to make HB 4024 the bill Oregon needs.

Finally, I feel compelled to comment on the supposed compromise among business, labor, and good government interests this current HB 4024 amendment text is purported to represent. Frankly, there was *no* agreement earned by the amendment writers for its content from the good government perspective. Good government has always been the singular prime catalyst for campaign finance reform, from Measure 107 and since. To pass this proposed amendment text that good government cannot support, that gives advantage and influence to the *money* interests of business and labor, disrespects the overwhelming intent of Measure 107 voters and violates key principles of election integrity.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views on these matters that are foundational to fairness in our election system.

I will follow up this presentation by submitting it in written testimony, as well.