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Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham, and members of the committee:
House Committee on Rules
Support for HJR 11

March 10, 2025

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing more than 6,500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

OFB has long supported the initiative and referendum process. Specifically, we support a system where petition signatures are distributed equitably across congressional districts or similar geographic regions. HJR 11 advances this principle by ensuring broad, statewide support before initiatives qualify for the ballot.

This effort minimally increases the number of signatures required to qualify an initiative, raising the threshold from 6% to 8% for statutory initiatives and from 8% to 10% for constitutional amendments. These thresholds have remained unchanged since 1968, despite significant growth in Oregon's registered voter base. This adjustment is a reasonable and necessary update that aligns with the requirements in other states while maintaining accessibility and reinforcing the integrity of the process.

While OFB supports a two-thirds majority vote requirement for constitutional amendments not referred by the legislature, we acknowledge that increasing signature requirements is a meaningful step toward ensuring a more representative initiative process.

Finally, HJR 11 preserves Oregon's initiative system while ensuring ballot measures reflect diverse perspectives across the state. We appreciate your consideration and urge your support.

Thank you.



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