

Testimony in Support of HJR 3 from Rep Bobby Levy

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy and I am the state representative for House District 58, which includes Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties.

I stand before you today in strong support of House Joint Resolution 3, a necessary step toward ensuring that the voices of all Oregonians—rural and urban alike—are fairly represented in our state’s initiative process.

Oregon has a long tradition of direct democracy, allowing the people to propose laws and amendments to our Constitution through the initiative process. However, over time, this process has disproportionately reflected the will of urban areas while sidelining the perspectives of rural communities. HJR 3 seeks to restore balance by requiring that petition signatures for proposed laws and constitutional amendments come from each county in Oregon, ensuring a more geographically diverse and representative electorate.

Currently, well-funded special interests, often concentrated in the Willamette Valley, can gather the required number of signatures without meaningful engagement with voters in rural communities. This undermines the spirit of our initiative system, which was intended to be a tool for all Oregonians—not just those in the state’s population centers. By requiring signature thresholds to be met in each county, HJR 3 guarantees that every region has a say in shaping the laws that govern us all.

Additionally, HJR 3 includes a crucial provision to prevent individuals who are not qualified Oregon voters from financially influencing initiative campaigns. This measure ensures that Oregonians—not out-of-state donors or special interests—are the ones driving our state’s policy decisions.

This resolution is not about partisanship; it is about fairness, representation, and restoring trust in our democratic process. Every voter, whether they live in Portland or Pendleton, should have an equal opportunity to shape the future of our state. HJR 3 moves us closer to that goal.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and give Oregonians the opportunity to vote on this important constitutional amendment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

Representative Bobby Levy
House District 58