

Testimony in Support of HJR 11 from Rep B. 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. In the language of this bill, I come to you from Congressional District 2.

I am here to express my strong support for HJR 11, which proposes a constitutional amendment to ensure a more equitable and representative initiative petition process in Oregon.

Currently, Oregon's initiative process allows petitions to qualify for the ballot by gathering signatures without guaranteeing that rural communities have an equal voice. **HJR 11 fixes this imbalance by requiring that initiative petitions gather signatures equally from all congressional districts, ensuring that every region of the state is fairly represented in shaping laws and constitutional amendments.** This measure upholds the intent of direct democracy while preventing policies from being driven solely by population centers, which often do not reflect the realities of my district.

Oregonians in every part of the state—not just the Willamette Valley or along the I-5 corridor—deserve a say in the laws that impact their daily lives. By ensuring that signature collection is geographically balanced, HJR 11 strengthens the integrity of our initiative system and fosters a more inclusive, statewide democratic process. This is a **common-sense reform** that respects Oregon's diverse communities and guarantees that all voices are heard in shaping our state's future.

I urge my colleagues to support HJR 11 and give Oregonians the opportunity to vote on this important measure.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Representative Bobby Levy
House District 58