

Submitter: Charles Buchanan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HJR11

At the present time, those of us in the less populated congressional districts are at an extreme disadvantage, number-wise, to oppose any sort of ballot measure. This constitutional amendment, if adopted, would level the playing field between those of us on the east side of our beautiful state who are often the target of petition measures proposed by folks on the west side who don't have any idea of our lifestyle and requirements and those same west side people who are often distinctly urban in nature.

While being urbanite is not in itself a bad thing, the good people of western Oregon may not have an idea of the true impact of their sometimes emotionally-driven initiatives, and due to the current initiative process are able to put initiatives on the ballot that are not in the best interests of either the urban or the rural dweller and can consequently damage the entire state. This proposed amendment would make for an initiative process that is much more fair for all concerned.

A prime example of the aforementioned emotionally-driven initiative petition is IP 3, which would criminalize many current animal husbandry practices, and would consequently place the lifestyle of many Oregon residents in jeopardy. This sort of thing is not in the best interests of our beautiful state, and the proposed constitutional amendment would make it much more difficult to get such initiatives on the ballot.