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March 10, 2025

The Honorable Ben Bowman
House Committee On Rules
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HJR 11 - **SUPPORT**

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazen and Pham, and members of the committee,

On behalf of AOL, we are writing to express strong support for HJR 11. We are the trusted voice for Oregon's small, family-owned logging businesses.

Currently, the thresholds to place an initiative on the ballot are based on the total votes for governor in the most recent election: 6% (about 117,000 signatures) for statutory changes and 8% (about 156,000 signatures) for constitutional changes. Since voters approved the initiative & referendum process in 1902, and with Oregon's population having doubled since 1968, we believe it is time to update these requirements.

HJR 11 increases the signature thresholds to 8% for statutory changes (about 156,000 signatures) and 10% for constitutional changes (about 195,000 signatures). It also introduces a geographic distribution requirement for signatures, aligning Oregon with 16 other states, including Colorado, Ohio, and Massachusetts.

This bill strengthens the initiative process by moderating signature increases and ensuring broader representation, while preserving citizens' ability to drive change. AOL supports HJR 11 as a balanced, good governance measure that improves the system without limiting access.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and AOL respectfully asks for your support of HJR 11.