

March 29, 2025

Chairman Jama, Vice Chair Boham, and the other members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I wish to join the many Oregonians who are opposed to SJR 30. SJR 30 is identical to HJR 11. An impressive number of 88 people or organizations submitted testimony in opposition to that bill.

This proposed amendment to our state's constitution is a threat to access to direct democracy in Oregon. As a retired political science professor, I know that Oregon is one of 15 states where everyday citizens have the right to run a petition to get statutory or constitutional amendments, and veto referendums on the ballot for a direct vote of the people. Access to direct democracy has been a key part of Oregon's political culture since 1902. Unfortunately, it is sometimes needed when the legislature as a whole becomes too timid or unresponsive to act in a responsible manner.

This bill would prohibit any measure from reaching the ballot, unless those numbers are gathered in each of Oregon's 6 Congressional Districts. If there is less than those numbers collected in even one Congressional District, the measure is banned from the ballot. This gives eastern Oregon veto power over all statewide initiatives and referenda.

I urge you to oppose SJR 30.

Respectfully,

Jeff Hammarlund, retired political science professor This proposed amendment to our state's constitution is a threat to access to direct democracy in Oregon.