

Chair Jama and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

SJR 30 is one of the worst of several anti-democratic pieces of legislation introduced this session. Please do NOT move it forward.

Many people have already raised the main concerns with SJR 30 so I'll just mention them briefly:

- **Increasing the percentages of signatures required** would make signature gathering an even more difficult and expensive process than it already is for real citizens, making it more likely that the only initiatives to get on future ballots will be from wealthy special interests.
- **Requiring equal percentages from every congressional district** intensifies the cost and difficulty for real citizens to successfully gather enough signatures to get an initiative on the ballot, and thus exacerbates the problems stated above.
- **This resolution is an effort to take power away from the legislature's "co-equal" branch of government – The People.** By all definitions of a democracy, the authority of the government comes from the consent of the People, through elections, referendums, and citizens' initiatives. Any effort to diminish these diminishes democracy.

The **equal percentages from each district requirement** would have a very nefarious result, and I suspect this is the real intent: Under SJR 30, one district that is an outlier from the other five districts and from the majority of Oregonians, would have a simple veto power over all the other districts.

Let's be honest. District 2 is the outlier that the resolution sponsors are trying to give veto power to. A clear majority of District 2 voters went for Donald Trump in the last three presidential elections while a clear majority in all the other districts went for the Democratic candidate. Presumably then, a majority of District 2 voters are aligned with the MAGA mandates: gun safety laws are bad; climate change is a hoax; vaccines do more harm than good; science can't be trusted; immigrants should all be deported; everything Donald Trump says is the gospel truth; and everything east of the Cascades should just become part of Idaho.

I live in District 2 and I definitely don't want my own district to have veto power over the other five! This bill feels like a blatant attempt to undermine democracy so that the minority party and its unpopular ideas won't keep losing in Oregon.

Finally, it should be clear to members of this committee that **there are some laws or constitutional amendments that ONLY the People will ever be able to pass**, even if a majority of legislators support it. Case in point: Ballot Measure 113 (2022). Though a

majority of Oregonians were sick and tired of the five walkouts that crippled the legislature from 2019 – 2021, the legislature itself could do nothing about it. Any attempt to legislate penalties or quorum changes would, no doubt, have resulted in yet another walkout. As a result of the People's action, walkouts can now no longer be used frivolously by a minority party to hold the majority hostage.

There is no part of SJR 30 that has any merit for a state that values democratic principles. Please do not waste any more time and resources on it, or on HJR 11 and HJR 3.

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