

Submitter: Barbara Dudley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3908

Testimony of Barbara Dudley, on behalf of the Oregon Working Families Party,
In support of HB 3908

Greetings Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazen and Pham, and Members of the Rules Committee,

I am writing to express the support of the Oregon Working Families Party for HB 3908, increasing the required party registration for a minor party to reach major party status from 5% to 10%. We agree that this is a reasonable increase given the complexity and cost of major party status, particularly in the conduct of primary elections. It makes sense for minor parties to have a longer runway toward major party status that allows them to build their candidate pool so they can in fact participate as a truly major party in a state run primary election rather than simply providing a blank ballot to their members.

The Working Families Party worked with the Independent Party and others in 2009 to pass legislation permitting a minor party to cross nominate a major party candidate when their members so choose, to avoid playing a spoiler role or giving the voter the sense that they are simply wasting their vote. We believe that reform gives minor parties a constructive way to participate in our election process.

We also strongly support the work group process the Secretary of State has proposed to examine all of our election laws as they pertain to both major and minor parties and look forward to participating in that process.

Thank you for your consideration,
Barbara Dudley
Oregon Working Families Party