

Submitter:

Riley Hanna

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SJR30

To jeopardize the people's ability to petition is to jeopardize our democracy.

If it were to pass, the text of SJR 30 may make it seem as though the initiatives that make it on the ballot are only those that have statewide support. However, as someone who has worked on numerous petitioning and political campaigns in our state, I know that this is nothing more than an effort to upend our democratic process and make it harder for the people to have their voices heard in our state government. To collect between 27,000-33,000 signatures in rural areas, which particularly dominate CD2, is next to impossible. Successful petitioning often requires being stationed at public sites with steady foot traffic, which are hard to come by in rural areas. And door-to-door efforts are far less successful and often put the petitioners' personal safety in danger.

To attempt to complicate our state's petitioning process to the point of making it nearly entirely unfeasible is not only blatantly anti-democratic, but anti-worker. Hundreds of good, hard-working people make their living as petition circulators and campaign organizers, several of whom I am privileged to know and call my friends. If passed, this bill would kill many much-needed jobs in an already hurting economy, and I encourage you to vote in opposition in solidarity with both workers and the people of Oregon.