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# A STRONG VOICE

## FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

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To: Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules

FR: Tan Perkins, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Oppose SJR 30

Date: 04/02/2025

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tan Perkins with the Oregon AFL-CIO, we represent over 300,000 workers and their families and strive to be a voice for all workers in the legislative process. I am here today in opposition to Senate Joint Resolution 30 (SJR 30).

We believe this resolution reduces direct democracy from grassroots organizations and creates a larger barrier for political engagement outside of the legislative process.

Oregon has a long history of a robust initiative petition process - part of this legacy is the fact that it is an accessible system. Ensuring that there are checks and balances in our political system results in more engagement and empowerment for voters. Ballot measures are an important piece of our fabric.

SJR 30 is designed to make access to the ballot initiative process more difficult, confusing, and expensive. The equal distribution mandate in this policy may sound appealing but it in fact stacks the deck unfairly, potentially giving disproportionate influence to less populated areas and diluting the voices of voters in more populous regions. Moreover there are concerns regarding the infrastructure to implement this policy - and to explain it to active voters seeking to make change.

SJR 30 could result in less citizen engagement and diminish the ability for voters to address issues through direct action. We urge your opposition.