



Locally Grown
and
GROWING STRONG

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and members of the committee,

Oregon Farm Bureau strongly supports the initiative and referendum process, a cornerstone of Oregon's democratic tradition.

OFB is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing more than 6,500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

SJR 30 strengthens the integrity and fairness of the initiative process while maintaining accessibility for Oregonians and for that reason, we're in support.

OFB believes that any initiative process should ensure broad, statewide representation. SJR 30 proposes the requirement that qualifying signatures be collected from each congressional district or similar geographic region. More than a dozen other states include similar provisions to promote fairness and geographic balance. This change ensures that ballot measures reflect input from all corners of our state—not just a single area.

We support SJR 30's modest increase in the number of signatures required to qualify a measure for the ballot. The proposed adjustment—from 6% to 8% for statutory initiatives and from 8% to 10% for constitutional amendments—is a reasonable modernization of a system that has not been updated since 1968. In the decades since, Oregon's voter registration rolls have grown dramatically due to modernization efforts, and this change better reflects today's electoral landscape.

While OFB has historically supported an even higher bar—specifically, a two-thirds majority vote for constitutional amendments not referred by the legislature—we view the increased signature requirements and geographic distribution provisions in SJR 30 as meaningful progress toward a more thoughtful and representative initiative process.

SJR 30 reflects good governance. It updates Oregon's historic initiative process without undermining the public's right to propose, amend, or repeal laws. And importantly, SJR 30 does not enact these changes outright—it simply refers the concept to the ballot, allowing Oregonians to weigh in on the future of their initiative system. We urge your support for SJR 30.

Thank you.

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