

Submitter: Melinda Fleming
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR30

Dear Chair Jama and esteemed Members of the Committee,

I oppose SJR 30, which is profoundly undemocratic. SJR 30 is identical to HJR 11, which was heard by the House Rules Committee on March 10 and no fewer than 88 written testimonies were submitted in opposition to that bill.

The Oregon Legislature has a distinct conflict of interest in restricting use of the initiative and referendum powers. Oregon has two co-equal legislative branches – the sitting Legislature and the people using the initiative or referendum. By restricting use of the initiative and referendum powers, the sitting Legislature reserves power to itself in excess of the coequal balance. It is already hard enough to qualify statewide measures for the ballot.

Thank you,
Melinda Fleming