

Submitter: Brett Daniels

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3390

I am writing today to strongly oppose HB3390A.

This bill represents a dangerous shift in the balance of power in our democratic system. HB3390A would strip away the current, collaborative process between petitioners and the Secretary of State's Office and instead hand over the authority to craft ballot titles and descriptions for referenda to the very body whose legislation the people may be trying to repeal—the Legislature.

This is a clear conflict of interest.

Under the current process, petitioners who seek to refer a law to the ballot work with a neutral, nonpartisan office to develop a fair and accurate title and summary. While not perfect, this process at least includes voices from both the people and the state. HB3390A would end that and allow the Legislature—the same body that passed the contested law—to define how the referendum is framed on the ballot.

That is not democracy. That is manipulation.

Ballot language has a powerful effect on voter perception. A biased or misleading title can confuse voters and skew the outcome. Giving the Legislature control over this language invites abuse of power and undermines the integrity of the referendum process, which is one of the few tools the people have to hold their government accountable.

We should be working to protect and strengthen the people's voice—not diminish it.

HB3390A is not a technical adjustment. It is a fundamental power grab that silences citizens and centralizes control. For the sake of fair governance, transparency, and democratic balance, I urge you to reject this bill.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to protecting Oregon's democratic process.

Sincerely,

Lifetime Tigard Resident