



February 10, 2026

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the House Committee on Rules: For the record, my name is Greg Astley, Director of Government Affairs for the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association (ORLA).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4018 and the -6 amendment.

As a statewide association, ORLA represents more than 11,000 restaurants, bars and other food service operations as well as over 2000 lodging operators in our state. As the third largest private sector employer in Oregon, the hospitality industry employs over 200,000 people serving customers like you every day.

When lawmakers adopted HB 4024, it was clear at the time additional work would be needed to ensure the program was implemented as intended and in line with Oregonians' expectations.

The amendment before you today is the next step in that process. It proposes to correct some drafting errors that have come to light since HB 4024 was passed and it makes necessary changes to operative deadlines that will help lead to smoother implementation.

Among the proposed changes in the amendment are:

- Definitions for independent expenditure committees, which will be necessary to ensure proper regulation of this political activity in a post-campaign finance era.
- Clarification of in-kind rules for memberships organizations, such as ORLA.
- Alignment with federal standards around defining coordination.
- Fixes to the penalty matrix that inadvertently provided a perverse incentive for entities to *not* report violations of the limits.
- The amendment also proposes extending the implementation time for new requirements that need intensive database and programming work. We support this extension as the Oregon Secretary of State's office works diligently to bring a functional, accessible and transparent system online.

Failure to extend implementation of these provisions could ultimately lead to launching a system that isn't ready, isn't functional and actually takes a step backward in our collective efforts to strengthen democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4018 and the -6 amendment.