

Submitter: Ethan Scarl

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4018

My name is Ethan Scarl, and I have long worked to end the weaponizing of money to suppress the diversity of perspectives that our democracy depends on.

Oregon voters made their concern abundantly clear in November of 2020, by passing Measure 107 with 78% of votes cast, that they want effective, transparent, and equitable control of the escalating funds devoted to swaying votes.

The legislature had been required to act on 107, but remarkably failed to do so until the surprising compromise of

HB4024 in March of 2024

Which is promising relief from out-of-control electioneering.

Shockingly, as this bit of real reform approaches fruition, HB2818-8 pops out of the woodwork without warning, and threatens to demolish much of that achievement, even delaying its remaining fragments by another 3years

That HB4818-8 was created suddenly and in a short session only hours before a public hearing and work session, and with no consultation with all the constituencies who participated in making HB2414 happen, exposes HB4818-8 as a sneaky end-run, intended to destroy something valuable without due process. Any such changes need to be negotiated with all stakeholders and in the cooler framework of a long session.

Any constituency that sincerely cares about the integrity of Oregon elections must defy the temptation to buy themselves a legislator or two, and work to defeat HB4818-8.