

Submitter: Robert Kugler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4018

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Pham, Representatives Grayber, Kropf, Skarlatos, and Wallan,

I write in opposition to HB 4018.

I laud the technical fixes it offers: to ensure personally identifiable information is protected; to fix the penalty matrix to incentivize good behavior and self-correction; and to clarify disclosure and disclaimer requirement language.

However, the nine changes to the law proposed in HB 4018 that weaken it noted by Daniel Meek and Honest Elections Oregon in their testimony make clear that this is stealth legislation meant to overturn the law's fundamental intent to limit campaign contributions in Oregon politics. That the measure was introduced at 5:23 the evening before a hearing on it only underscores the underhanded nature of the proposal.

Working and retired taxpaying citizens of Oregon who have not been able to make hundreds of millions of dollars from businesses based in Oregon and blessed by the infrastructure and laws paid for by our tax dollars should not have to compete with the Phil Knights of Oregon when it comes to supporting candidates and causes. Notably, because of Oregon's close alignment with federal tax policy that takes a taxpayer's federal AGI as the basis for Oregon taxes, you can be sure that Mr. Knight and other super-rich Oregonians who draw their income from investments pay far less in Oregon taxes as a percentage of their income than those working and retired taxpaying citizens. To perpetuate a campaign finance system that allows people like Mr. Knight to so heavily influence elections with his wealth is fundamentally undemocratic. HB 4018 threatens to undermine the law that you passed in 2024 to address that inequity. Please do not push this legislation forward.

Rob Kugler