



February 12, 2026

TO: Members of the House Committee on Rules

FR: Preston Mann, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: Support for HB 4018 -8

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the House Committee on Rules: For the record, I am Preston Mann, Vice President of External Affairs for Oregon Business & Industry (OBI).

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,500 member companies, more than 75% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4018 and the -8 amendment. By way of background, OBI provided extensive feedback on HB 4024 (2024), which established new campaign finance limits and regulations governing election-related activity. At the time of the bill's passage, lawmakers and stakeholders agreed that technical fixes would be needed in a future legislative session. The need for those technical changes was further clarified through the Secretary of State's HB 4024 Implementation Rules Advisory Committee, of which OBI served as a member alongside many of the other witnesses here today.

The amendment before you this morning is the product of many hours of good-faith conversations between stakeholders, including business and labor representatives, community-based organizations, treasurers, the Secretary of State's office and policymakers. Each of us has come to this conversation with different perspectives and priorities, but share one common goal: successful implementation of HB 4024.

HB 4018 -8 maintains HB 4024 contribution limits, effective January 1, 2027

Perhaps the most important thing to know about HB 4018 -8 is what it does not do. The -8 amendment proposes no changes to the contribution limits in HB 4024 nor the January 1, 2027, effective date. Starting next year, contribution limits will govern all candidate campaigns in Oregon.

HB 4018 -8 includes necessary technical fixes to ensure successful implementation

The bulk of HB 4018 -8 includes necessary technical fixes that address drafting errors and provides crucial clarifying language to ensure successful implementation of the new limits and rules. Many of these technical changes may seem small or inconsequential, but each of them is necessary to support the launch of a system that is functional, transparent and rises to the standard that Oregonians expect from their elections. Specific technical changes include:

- Creating and defining independent expenditure committees
- Limiting disclosure of personally identifying information
- Clarifying new disclosure and transparency rules
- Restoring transparency statutes that were inadvertently removed in HB 4024
- Refining advertising disclaimer rules
- Clarifying in-kind rules involving membership organizations, legislative caucuses and political parties
- Aligning the Secretary of State's enforcement with legislative intent
- Further defining language related to the purposeful evasion of contribution limits
- Aligning with federal standards around defining "coordination."
- Disambiguation of terms like donation and contribution
- Correcting the penalty matrix to ensure bad actors are held accountable

Extended implementation is paramount to a functional system

While contribution limits will become effective on January 1, 2027, a timeline that again remains unchanged in the language before you today, we urge the committee to extend the implementation time for other sections of the law. These sections, which regulate persons establishing, financing, maintaining or controlling an entity, propose novel and complex transparency requirements, along with a replacement of the ORESTAR system, simply cannot be ready on the timelines originally set forth in HB 4024. They are complex, untested and expensive. Failure to extend the implementation timeline for these sections risks requiring an underfunded Secretary of State's office launch a regulatory program that is not ready and will erode public trust in our elections at a time when we can least afford it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4024 and the -8 amendment. OBI is committed to supporting the successful implementation of Oregon's new campaign finance limits and rules.

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