March 2, 2017

Oregon Progressive Party Position on Bill at 2017 Session of Oregon Legislature:



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HB 2702: Support, with Reluctance

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) supports this bill, reluctantly, because it only a minimal improvement over the present system and not nearly enough.

As I recall, I was the only person who testified against the 2001 bill repealing the Oregon law requiring that political ads identify their sources. HB 2702 sort of restores that requirement but only for ads that support or oppose candidates (under the -1 amendment, which makes HB 2702 worse).

Under HB 2702, campaigns will be able to easily avoid placing meaningful taglines on their ads. There are no restrictions on the name of political committees, so all ads can be placed by the "Committee for Good Things" or similar euphonious names which do not inform voters about the true sources of the ads.

The Oregon Legislature should instead adopt the tagline legislation I have attached to this testimony, along with a short explanation of it.

Oregon Progressive Party

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