

April 4, 2017

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

HCR 24: Support

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) supports this bill, which requires committees and subcommittees of Senate and House of Representatives, and joint committees and subcommittees of Legislative Assembly, to accept remote testimony given by remote videoconferencing link.

Testifying at the Oregon Legislature is often not simple or easy. Bills scheduled for public hearing are often not heard at the scheduled hearing, postponed to a later date. A citizen testifying on a bill is not infrequently confronted with one or more amendments, sometimes not posted on OLIS and often replacing the entire original bill with something different.

The Legislature should allow ordinary citizens to avoid the need for multiple trips to Salem (and the resulting cost, emissions, and congestion) by testifying by videoconferencing link. The cost is greater for those who live farther from Salem.

This will be a step to reducing the influence of lobbyists who occupy the Legislature.

Oregon Progressive Party

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