



June 19, 2017

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

SB 225 A: Oppose

Dear Committee:

I am submitting this testimony after the date of the public hearing before the House Rules Committee, due to my need for surgery on June 13.

The Oregon Progressive Party opposes this bill, which:

- Provides that treasurer of political committee or treasurer of petition committee is personally responsible for performance of specified duties.
- Permits treasurer to designate elector to be liable for civil penalties imposed for failure to file required statements for committee or for failure to include information required in statements filed for committee.

The first provision seems reasonable but is not necessary. For decades treasurers of political committees and measure committees have been held responsible for campaign finance reporting violations attributable to the committee.

The second provision (adopted in the -1 amendment on April 19) is a poison pill that could destroy Oregon's campaign finance reporting system. It provides:

- (3) A treasurer may designate an elector of this state to be liable for any civil penalty imposed under ORS 260.232. The treasurer shall include the name and address of any elector

designated under this subsection in a statement of organization filed under this section.

ORS 260.232 is the section that imposes penalties for failing to comply with campaign financing reporting requirements.

So SB 225 A would allow any treasurer of any candidate committee, political committee, petition committee or measure committee to name any elector of Oregon to be liable for any and all civil penalties arising from the committee's failures to comply with campaign finance reporting requirements. This could well lead to the creation of a new industry in Oregon: Professional Judgement-Proof Political Campaign Violation Scapegoat. All campaigns could simply designate the same judgement-proof person or persons to absorb all of their fines for violations of reporting requirements. Voila! The system becomes fine-less and thus completely unable to require compliance.

And SB 225 A does not even require that the designated fine-absorber agree to that role. Even if that requirement were added by rule, SB 225 A would open a loophole that could destroy the campaign finance reporting system in Oregon.

Oregon Progressive Party

Daniel Meek
authorized legal representative
dan@meek.net
503-293-9021

