



503.687.1206

www.indparty.com

info@indparty.com

02/08.2018

ATTN: House Rules Committee

Chair Williamson & members of the committee,

My name is Rob Harris. I am co-chair of the Independent Party of Oregon and was a member of the 2015-2016 Secretary of State's Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform.

The Independent Party of Oregon supports HB 4076, which establishes a small donor program. We are pleased to see that the that the legislation reflects recommendations that our party made to the 2015-2016 campaign finance task force that a matching program be limited to state legislative races as a cost limiting measure and a "proof of concept".

We note that much of the public dissatisfaction with our state and federal legislatures are predicated on the widespread and growing perception that special interests that accounted for 97 percent of the \$130 million that was spent on political campaigns in Oregon in 2016 have too much influence over public policy. These public concerns have a legitimate basis and reforms like public funding of elections can go a long way towards restoring public trust in our basic institutions.

We recommend reviewing the testimony provided by Dan Meek on behalf of the Oregon Progressive Party, in particular the amendment he recommends to the definition of "small donor committee". Additionally, we agree with the analysis that this legislation may advantage candidates who are already well-established and suggest that to balance that, the threshold of signatures required to trigger the match be reduced.

We understand the limits that our State and Federal constitution have placed on you in regards to campaign finance reform and urge you to support HB 4076 as a careful and judicious advancement in clean elections and an important step in modernizing our election architecture.

Sincerely

Rob Harris,

Co-chair of the Independent Party of Oregon and 2015-2016 IPO representative to the Secretary of State's Task Campaign Finance Task Force