



May 1, 2013

Re: HB 3506

Chair Garrett and member of the House Committee on Rules:

Causa is Oregon's statewide Latino immigrant rights organization. We work to defend and advance immigrant rights by coordinating with local, state, and national coalitions and allies. We are the largest Latino civil and human rights organization in the Pacific Northwest. Our mission is to foster a society that recognizes the contributions of immigrants and upholds the values of democracy, equality, and respect.

Causa of Oregon strongly supports House Bill 3506, relating to bilingual voting requirements.

Causa has been very involved in voter registration efforts across the state for the past 15 years. This last year alone we helped register over 4,000 voters. Many of these new voters were from the immigrant and refugee populations. Every year in Oregon over 5,000 immigrants become citizens of the U.S. We must find ways to make sure that each and every one of them has the opportunity to become civically engaged with their local, state and federal governments.

By passing HB 3506 you will guarantee that all Oregonians will be able to fully participate in our democratic system. With the passage of this bill many voices that often get misheard will have the vehicle in which to step forward and be engaged.

Please vote YES on HB 3506 and support our work to have meaningful participation from all of our citizens throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Luis Guerra

Causa Oregon, Acting Executive Director