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May 8, 2013

To: House Rules Committee
From: Kate Titus, Common Cause Oregon
Re: Support for HB 3521

Common Cause supports HB 3521 to further modernize our voter registration system.

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works to safeguard and improve the democratic process. For more than 40 years, the organization has helped strengthen public participation and faith in our institutions of self-government, and has worked to ensure that government serves and is accountable to the public interest.

Common Cause supports this measure because it offers a common sense modernization of our voting system, serving several nonpartisan and widely shared public interests. We find three benefits particularly compelling.

- **Convenience** – Some may argue that the status quo is fine. However, in this increasingly busy and mobile world, the reality is that people sometimes find it burdensome to keep up with all the minor bureaucratic matters of their lives. As technology advances, we've become accustomed to greater efficiency and convenience. There's no reason to make the steps to voting any more cumbersome than they need to be, especially in a country that prides itself on innovation and working smarter. As technology advances, we should advance with it.
- **Government Efficiency** – The proposed modernization is not just more efficient for voters, but also for government. By making fuller use of electronic technology, and integrating systems and information between government agencies, we save time and minimize human error, helping to keep government as efficient as possible.
- **The Right to Vote** – This measure will make it easier for more people to vote, which is a goal all of us in this room can support. Common Cause favors policy that welcomes and facilitates increased voting. We believe that broad public participation is a good thing, generally leading to better decisions and greater public confidence in those decisions.

Common Cause applauds the House Rules Committee for considering HB 3521 and urges you to vote this bill out of committee for consideration by your colleagues.