

Dear Administrator Seiler:

Please convey my concerns regarding HB 2738 to the House Rules Committee. First, this law, if enacted, will be just be another way for our legislators and department heads to make the grassroots of the major political parties in Oregon irrelevant. This bill would put the control of the political parties in the hands of cliques and create additional cronyism in the parties.

Further, taking the gender qualification away from the PCP designation is a bad idea. The outcome would be that either females or males would dominate in most counties. We need to encourage both genders to participate in the political process equally. I'm sure those sponsoring this bill would not want one gender or the other to be discriminated against. If the gender designation is removed from the PCP designation, that is exactly what would happen, maybe not by design, but due to human nature.

There is much more about this bill that will make the first level of political activism in Oregon irrelevant. For example, appointed PCPs should not be able to vote for county officers. These people are appointed, not elected by the voters of their precincts.

If the concern of the County Clerks is the cost of PCP elections, I recommend that the PCP elections be held every four years rather than every two years. If this is considered, there should be a mechanism for the county parties to determine if an individual PCP is performing his or her duties as stated in their bylaws and be able to remove those who are not in compliance with the bylaws, that is there should be an easy recall mechanism.

Please remove this bill from further consideration.

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