



**TO: House Rules Committee**  
**FR: Emily McLain, Lobbyist Oregon Bus Project**  
**DA: February 2, 2015**  
**Re: Testimony in support of HB 2177, New Motor Voter**

Chair Hoyle and members of the committee,

My name is Emily McLain and I am here today to urge your support for HB 2177, New Motor Voter. I am representing the Oregon Bus Project, an organization focused on engaging young people in the democratic process by making it fun and accessible.

We have a problem to address: In the last two federal election cycles, 29,000 eligible Oregon voters registered to vote after the deadline —**leaving them sitting on the sidelines until the next election.**

HB 2177 is a straightforward solution that improves the democratic process. This bill updates an out dated system that is predominantly conducted via paper and utilizes basic and existing technology to streamline the voter registration process. It is past time to incorporate basic technology in the process, especially when it's utilizing existing technology for established data points. Currently, the DMV collects and verifies age, address, and citizenship status, and an electronic signature, which is critical for Oregon's vote-by-mail system.

HB 2177 provides for needed updates to the State's existing process for integrating the data collected via DMV with the Secretary of State's system for tracking and processing voter registrations. Federal law currently requires participation by the DMV in the voter registration process.

The Oregon Bus Project and many of Oregon's leading nonprofit and civic engagement groups like the Oregon Student Association, Urban League and the League of Women Voters strongly support this simple, safe and accurate voter registration process.

What is interesting is that Oregon won't be the first to do something like this. In 2014, the State of Louisiana passed a similar bill to HB 2177, which allows for more streamlined access to the voter registration process through the DMV. Oregon should follow Louisiana's lead in establishing a comparable system here.

In the world's leading democracy, every eligible American should have an equal opportunity to vote. Moreover, our process should have a high level of security and integrity, which HB 2177 would ensure. We have an opportunity to allow eligible Oregon voters to be registered to vote in a secure and accurate process so that we can focus on what matters, actually voting.