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Outline for Testimony on HB 2178

I. Introduction

Common Cause Oregon supports House Bill 2178, which would require update our disclosure laws to expose and highlight large donations in the final weeks of an election.

Common Cause is a nonpartisan grassroots organization that works to safeguard and improve the democratic process. For more than 40 years, we have helped to strengthen public participation and faith in our institutions of self-government, and to ensure that government serves the public interest, which is what prompts our testimony today.

II. A brief outline of what the legislation does

As you know, HB 2178 updates our disclosure laws and changes the 7-day reporting period for larger donations. In the final six weeks of a campaign, for any donations that aggregate over \$2500 to candidates and political committees, the donations would have to be reported in 48 hours instead of one week.

III. The Data

People might think that most of donations come in well before the final week. But in the 2014 elections, there were 2,605 contributions made to candidates and political committees in the final days. Because of 7-day reporting, donations made after October 29th were not reported until the day after the election. And if we had this law, larger donations made on November 2nd would have shown up by election-day.

Within that timeline, donations over \$2500 totaled \$1.8 million worth of direct contributions, and \$772,000 from in-kind donations. That's \$2.5 million that didn't show up in the last election that would have appeared if we had this law.

Donations between October 29th--November 2nd which HB 2178 would have disclosed
Yes on Measure 92: \$162,500
Kitzhaber: \$392,500
Dennis Richardson: \$40,500

IV. HB 2178 would add disclosure and shine a light on the \$2.5 million that went unseen in this last election.

Disclosure is a popular, effective tool and allows Oregon to once again be a leader in disclosure laws. Oregon has always been a pioneer when it comes to disclosure laws, and HB 2178 will let Oregon continue to be a national leader on these politics.