

Oregon Joint Resolution 28

Testimony Before the Oregon House Committee on Rules
78th Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session

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Testimony by:

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HJR 28 Title: Proposing amendment to Oregon Constitution relating to legislative review of state agency administrative rules.

HJR Catchline/Summary: Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution relating to legislative review of state agency administrative rules. Provides that Legislative Assembly may require legislative committees to review and approve administrative rules before rules or amendments become effective. Provides that administrative rules adopted or amended by state agencies after effective date of constitutional amendment have no force and effect unless specified legislative committees approve rule or amendment, if approval is required by law. Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election.

Dear Senators & Representatives:

Circumstances have not allowed me to submit this written testimony in a manner which would have been more timely. It is now in the 2 pm hour and the House Committee on Rules will hold a public hearing on HJR 28 at 3 pm today.

Please forgive my typos and the manner of my written emphases. I deviates from my usual form.

I have very good reason to believe that there is tremendous interest among the citizens of Oregon in the passage of this Joint Resolution to amend the Oregon Constitution in the manner proposed by so many good Senators and Representatives who are sponsoring HJR 28.

The manner in which Bureaus & Commissions in the state of Oregon are lawlessly writing rules which "carry the weight of law" is astounding. HJR 28 NEEDS to go before the people of Oregon for a vote and there needs in the interim, to be GREAT effort to raise public awareness as to why this is important. Amending the Oregon Constitution in

the manner proposed would provide not only a functional change to the core of our government, but by its inclusion, it would provide a a profound symbolic cornerstone to provisions already included in our constitution.

At present, the services provided by the Department of Legislative Counsel can be clearly seen as despairingly inadequate. Our state's OARS are RIFE with violations of the Oregon Constitution and the various Boards and Commissions are acting on the rules they write themselves grossly, without oversight.

I am disappointed that today's public hearing did not get more press and even I, a citizen who has been monitoring this session's legislative activity quite well, found out about HJR 28 simply by accident. I would advise that a lack of public participation in today's hearing NOT be interpreted as a lack of public interest, but as a lack of public awareness of today's event.

This is an extremely important matter and is at the very core of Oregon government. Boards and Commissions are not our government, but with the inadequate legislative oversight which has been the case for far too long, it seems they have become as large or larger than the government to which the public have proper and transparent access.

Please vote to bring this matter before the people for a vote BY the people at our next election.

Thank you for your kind attention and for doing such a good job as legislators to preserve an open and transparent government accessible to the Oregon people.

Respectfully and gratefully,

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