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**Written Testimony regarding House Bill 3500
and Open Primaries in General**

Chair Hoyle, Vice-Chairs Smith Warner and Gilliam, and Members of the Committee,

First, thank you for including OACC in your discussion regarding the "Open Primary" concept.

As County Clerks and Election Officials, this is a subject that we are keenly interested in, and we would be happy to give you our input on any and all concepts you might be considering.

As I'm sure you know, this concept has been discussed during prior legislative sessions. While OACC is not inherently opposed to the idea of conducting Open Primary elections, we do have some concerns that we would like to bring to the table.

- 1) Cost: Counties all across Oregon are in a tough financial spot. It is important to keep that reality at the forefront of the discussion.
- 2) Simplicity: Vote by mail is a remarkably simple system that allows electors to vote with very little effort. Keeping the act of voting a simple and easy process is of the utmost importance.
- 3) Transparency: With simplicity comes transparency. Voters are more apt to understand and respect a transparent process.
- 4) Efficiency: Multiple handling of ballots can create inefficiencies, and sometimes security risks.

Thank you once again for including OACC in this discussion. If you have any questions, or would like OACC to weigh-in or provide analysis on any concepts you might be considering, please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

OACC

NOTE: There are several States that currently hold Open Primary elections. On the next page is a list of those States for your consideration.

State	Closed	Open	Other	Remarks
Alabama		x		
Alaska			x	Blanket primary for four of five registered parties. Republicans use closed primary.
Arizona	x			
Arkansas		x		Voter must vote in runoff primary of same party.
California	x			
Colorado	x			
Connecticut	x			
Delaware	x			
District of Columbia	x			
Florida	x			
Georgia		x		Voter must vote in runoff primary of same party.
Hawaii		x		
Idaho		x		
Illinois			x	Must vote in primary of same party as last primary vote. Loosely enforced.
Indiana		x		
Iowa			x	Voter may change registration at polls.
Kansas	x			
Kentucky	x			
Louisiana			x	Effectively open. Top-two runoff system ("cajun primary") used. Closed primary used for Congressional races after 2006.
Maine	x			
Maryland	x			
Massachusetts	x			
Michigan		x		
Minnesota		x		
Mississippi		x		
Missouri		x		
Montana		x		
Nebraska	x			
Nevada	x			
New Hampshire	x			
New Jersey	x			
New Mexico	x			
New York	x			
North Carolina	x			
North Dakota		x		
Ohio			x	Must vote in primary of same party as last primary vote. Loosely enforced.
Oklahoma	x			
Oregon	x			
Pennsylvania	x			
Rhode Island	x			
South Carolina		x		Voter must vote in runoff primary of same party.
South Dakota	x			
Tennessee		x		
Texas		x		Voter must vote in runoff primary of same party.
Utah	x			Currently only Republicans close primary.
Vermont		x		
Virginia		x		
Washington		x		
West Virginia	x			Currently only Democrats close primary.
Wisconsin		x		
Wyoming	x			