

RE: HB3475

04/15/2015

3PM Hearing Room 50

Testimony by - -

Art Crino

14580 SW 126th Avenue

Tigard, OR 97224

crino9850@comcast.net

503-639-6545

### Republics and Democracies

In addressing this topic, I believe the key word to keep in mind is democracy. For good reasons, it does not appear in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution or the constitutions of any of the 50 states. The Founders were well versed in the history of republics and democracies. They greatly feared the hazards of a democracy. We all know about the incident following the Constitutional Convention when he lady asked, Dr. Franklin, what have you brought us? He replied, a Republic, if you can keep it!

The Electoral College as described in Article II of the Constitution and revised by the 12th Amendment gives no latitude for a popular presidential election. The Electoral College was intended to do two things: Maintain a Republic and the balancing of power between small and large states.

Adolph Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Fidel Castro were elected by popular vote. Robert Mugabe changed Rhodesia into the infamous Zimbabwe by popular vote. In 1913 the 17th Amendment must have caused the Founders of this nation to spin in their graves. It was a big step toward making us into a democracy. In my opinion we should be working to repeal the 17th Amendment and return selection of the U.S. Senators to you.

I recommend a **NO** vote on this measure -- **HR3475**.