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To: House Rules Committee
From: Kate Titus, Common Cause Oregon
Re: Support for HB 3475

Common Cause Oregon supports HB 3475 to enact an interstate compact that would enable election of the U.S. President by National Popular Vote.

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works for open, honest and accountable government, helping to strengthen public participation and faith in our institutions of self-government, and to ensure that government serves the general public interest.

Support for National Popular Vote

Electing the President is a core function of self-government, and part of how we publicly debate our priorities and direction as a nation. And yet currently, not every vote across the country counts equally. Oregon is one of many states that hardly matters during the presidential race, that is virtually ignored when it comes to campaigning – and even more importantly – when it comes to policy issues.

The National Popular Vote bill addresses this serious problem by bringing every vote into play, guaranteeing the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states. In so doing, it strengthens our democratic system in several ways:

- 1) **Respects Every Vote** – National Popular Vote forces candidates to appeal for every vote rather than focus only on electoral votes in a few swing states.
- 2) **Puts Oregon Back on the Map** – National Popular Vote incentivizes a full 50-state presidential race, with political campaigns investing time and money to engage with all voters, ensuring that policy discussions are more broadly representative, and not skewed by marginal concerns of relatively small groups in swing states.
- 3) **Increases Voter Confidence** – Americans have an ingrained sense of democratic fair play and want to know that the candidate with the most votes will indeed win. Polling has consistently shown strong support for National Popular Vote.
- 4) **Increases Voter Participation** – As a rule, battleground states have higher voter participation rates than “safe” states. Voters are more motivated to vote when we believe our vote matters, and less so when we don’t.

This is neither a conservative nor liberal proposal. It is something we can all support in the interest of a well-functioning democracy. Common Cause urges your support of National Popular Vote.