

April 15, 2015

Chair Hoyle, Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Jeff Anderson. I am the secretary-treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555. UFCW Local 555 represents over 20,000 workers throughout Oregon and Southwestern Washington. We are the largest private sector union in Oregon. Our membership is comprised of workers in retail, manufacturing, health care and many other industries. Local 555 has a rich history dating back to 1936. Our local is chartered by the UFCW International Union, joining us with over 1.3 million workers across the United States and the World.

I also serve as the chair of the Working Families Party, one of Oregon's minor political parties. I appreciate your consideration of HB3297 – Full Fusion Voting.

- A modified version of Fusion Voting already exists in Oregon.
- Third parties can “cross-nominate” candidates and appear on the ballot, on the same line as other parties.
- HB3297 will preserve third party endorsements for candidates, while listing the candidate and the party on their own ballot line in general elections. Candidates will then know how many votes came from each party – providing a voice for minor parties that is lacking within our current system.

Full Fusion Voting provides an improved voice for minor parties without dramatically altering our elections system. It provides candidates with a more complete understanding of where their support may be within their constituencies.

There are issues remaining to explore under HB3297.

- We would urge that counties be allowed to report votes for each party, and have the totals calculated by the state Elections Division. This could help maintain a smaller fiscal impact.
- We would ask that implementation be for the 2018 general election.

Again, I appreciate your consideration of this concept. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Best regards,

Jeff Anderson
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