

Dear Chair Rosenbaum, Co-Chair Ferrioli, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

I am writing in support of Senate Joint Resolution 5.

As you know, Oregon is one of just a few states that impose no limits on contributions in support of candidates for state or local public offices. The consequence is that political campaigns are more expensive in Oregon than in most other states. Because of the rapid growth in spending on political campaigns in Oregon as well as nationally, many voters are convinced that their elected officials are influenced more by those who have made large contributions than by concern for the common good. While as children we were taught the sanctity of the rule, "one person, one vote," the perception is that in practice the rule is often instead, "one dollar, one vote."

SJR 5 would take the necessary first step toward correcting this situation by allowing the people of Oregon to vote on an amendment to the Oregon Constitution that would permit the passage of laws to place limits on campaign contributions.

I urge your support of SJR 5 and ask that you do all you can to advance this resolution during this session of the Oregon legislature.

Thank you!

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