

TO Daniel Lewkow
Political Director-Campaign Finance Reform; Common Cause Oregon

FROM Rabbi Ariel Stone
Congregation Shir Tikvah, Portland Oregon

**Please transmit to the Honorable leaders of the State of Oregon
On behalf of Senate Joint Resolution 5**

You shall not manipulate judgment; you shall not show mercy to the poor because of their poverty, nor favor the rich because they are rich; in righteousness you just judge your neighbor. (Leviticus 19.15)

I, Rabbi Ariel Stone of Congregation Shir Tikvah in Portland Oregon endorse Joint Resolution 5 as a measure toward cost-saving sustainability in our public life:

This resolution allows the State Legislature to take a stand for election reform. This is not only a trust-building measure; it is also the only ethical response to the corruption we have all witnessed through the lack of contribution limits.

Not having contribution limits has helped to increase the costs of our elections. And that makes it harder for middle class Oregonians to run for office.

As things stand right now, the Legislature cannot respond to constituents who are asking to put any limits on money in politics. Its hands are completely tied.

We need more than transparency. If our transparency system would catch an unseemly donation, the legislature has no ability to respond.

Contribution limits promote the First Amendment – they ensure that voters' voices count – not just people who are able to contribute.

I am grateful to those who have created this legislation and pray that it passes.