

To: House Rules Committee
From: Justin Martin, Perseverance Strategies, Inc.
Date: April 15, 2015
Subject: Please Support HB 3475 (National Popular Vote)

Good afternoon Madam Chair, Vice-Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Gilliam, members of the House Rules Committee, my name is Justin Martin and I'm here today on behalf of National Popular Vote (HB 3475).

The NPV bill has passed in eleven jurisdictions: MD, MA, VT, NJ, DC, IL, RI, NY and WA, CA, HI. Those states possess 165 electoral votes, which is 61% of the 270 electoral votes needed to trigger this interstate compact. The bill has also passed at least one chamber in 12 states, including the Oregon House in 2009 / 2013.

NPV has been endorsed by 2142 of your colleagues around the country. Supporters include former Senator Fred Thompson (R-TN), Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO), Governor Howard Dean (D-VT), and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA).

The bill recently passed by a bipartisan 28-18 vote in the Republican controlled Oklahoma Senate. In addition, the NPV bill was recently enacted into law after a 57-4 vote in the Republican controlled New York Senate, where the concept was endorsed by both the Conservative Party of New York and the Working Families Party of New York.

Why is this relevant to Oregon? With the winner take all system that we have in place in Oregon; Oregon along with 40 other states were completely ignored in the 2012 Presidential Election.

- We had zero campaign visits. By comparison, FL had 40, OH had 73, VA had 36.
- Why is that important? It is important not just on the front end of campaigns, it's also important on the governance side. Once a president gets into the White House, what issues do they look at? What issues do they focus on and what is their concentration?
- The reality is, it's usually senior issues for FL votes; Medicare Part D for example, or it's No Child Left Behind - looking at soccer moms in OH. When in essence, if every vote mattered in every state we could be talking about issues that are relevant to OR and the west.
 - Immigration, Pacific Rim Trade, natural resources and high-tech.

We hope with passage of this bill that we can put Oregon on the map. We also feel that the 754,000 republican votes that were cast for the republican candidate in Oregon in 2012 should be counted.

Regardless of anyone's position in opposition or in favor of this bill, we all in this state could probably agree and everybody across the country would agree that every vote should be equal.

You are going to hear a lot of testimony that will try to confuse and complicate this issue through myths, scenarios and theories. We've taken a great deal of steps within our book.

- Chapter 9 is 431 pages addressing all of these myths, scenarios and theories. At the end of the day, after all the testimony, I always come back to the facts of what the NPV Bill is really all about.
 - **It would ensure that every vote in every state matters in every presidential election.**
 - **That the candidate that gets the most votes would win.**

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