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April 13, 2015

Oregon Progressive Party Position on Bill at 2015 Session of Oregon Legislature:

Oppose: SB 580

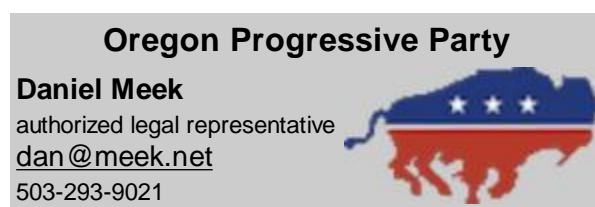
Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party officially opposes SB 580 due to its provision that an accused can be required to pay the cost of conducting a contested case hearing (up to \$5,000) on the charges against the accused. That is the equivalent of charging a defendant in court for the cost of conducting the trial and is a fundamental denial of due process of law. Its purpose and effect would be to coerce those accused of misdeeds into accepting proposed fines or arbitration, which includes far fewer due process protections.

This bill would set a bad precedent. This is a road that should not be traveled. It would also likely spawn litigation to challenge the constitutionality of requiring an accused to pay for the cost of the quasi-judicial proceeding available to her to defend against the accusations.

Please include this statement in the legislative record for this bill.

Thank you.



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