

FROM THE DESK OF SAL PERALTA

May 28, 2015

The Independent Party of Oregon opposes the -1 amendment to HB 2178.

HB 2178-1: OPPOSE

The underlying bill was a reasonable tradeoff that strengthened the reporting requirements for contributions and expenditures that exceeded \$2500, and those made by entities whose aggregate contributions exceeded \$2500, while delaying reporting for all other transactions.

As amended, the legislation opens a major hole in Oregon's campaign reporting system by allowing large contributors to circumvent the state's 1 week reporting requirements by breaking their contributions into amounts of less than \$2500.

Had this law been in effect in 2014, it would have allowed 6,254 transactions of at least \$1000 made during the last 42 days of the campaign to circumvent the 1 week reporting requirement. In total, the legislation would have delayed reporting of more than 23,000 contributions and 11,000 expenditures.

Based on ORSTAR , the largest beneficiaries of this circumvention are legislative leadership pacs (led by FuturePac), Oregon Right to Life, SEIU (CAPE), and the Democratic Party of Oregon.

These are among the most powerful and active political organizations in the state. The legislature should not be contemplating ways to allow them to weaken or to circumvent the state's campaign reporting requirements.

Oregon has a strong campaign reporting system. That system would be jeopardized by the passage of this amendment.

We urge a no vote on the amendment.



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