

June 8, 2015

TO: House Committee on Rules
FR: David Rosenfeld, Executive Director, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)
RE: OSPIRG position on the -5 amendment to HB 2178

OSPIRG supports the -5 amendment to House Bill 2178. For the most part, the amendment addresses our concerns about the previously offered amendments.

In particular, we are glad to see the -5 amendment restores the default reporting window back to seven days for contributions and expenditures made in the last 42 days of the election – for candidate committees, independent expenditures and ballot committees.

We would prefer that the new, two-day reporting provision remain as originally introduced. That is, two-day reporting would be triggered once a contribution or expenditure aggregates to \$2500 or more, rather than triggered by a single \$2500 contribution within the 14 day window. We would also prefer that the two-day reporting requirement exist for independent expenditures and ballot committees, rather than simply candidate committees.

On balance, however, we would be glad to see some version of two-day reporting for large contributions move forward, as long as it comes without rolling back existing transparency requirements for elections. It appears that the -5 amendment accomplishes this aim.

One final, unrelated point: page 5, lines 10 and 11 of the -5 amendment would allow for 2 members to represent the major political parties in Oregon on the “Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform”. It would appear that the authors presume there to be two major political parties; however, Oregon now has three major political parties. We wanted to point this out in case this is a drafting error.