

June 10, 2015



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

**SB 294A: Oppose the adopted -2 Amendment;
Support the underlying bill**

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party opposes the -2 Amendment to SB 294A, which was adopted by the Senate. The underlying bill authorizes the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) to adopt rules pertaining to the conduct of executive sessions by public bodies. That we support.

But the -2 Amendment adopted in the Senate prohibits those rules from addressing who may qualify as a representative of the news media entitled to attend such executive sessions.

We oppose the -2 Amendment. OGEC should define "representative of the news media," not each public body. OGEC has an institutional interest in providing information useful to the public, including information garnered by media representatives attending executive sessions. Each public body, conversely, has a bureaucratic interest in keeping executive sessions closed.

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

Thank you.

