

Chair Williamson, Vice-chairs Gilliam and Hoyle, members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am Bob Ozretich, co-founder of the Corvallis Area Move To Amend affiliate.

If the Oregon constitution is amended by HJR 205, it would be a good thing for Oregon but it would only bring your ability to reign-in direct candidate campaign contributions up to the level of federal candidates. You, like your federal counterparts would still be constrained by the Supreme Court's decision in Buckley v Valeo. Yes, you will try to apply their test: "Is the level of spending we propose corrupting, or have the appearance of corruption?". Regardless, the Supreme Court's view of money as a speech right, and the place of corporations in campaigns would remain.

You will have wealthy individuals lobbying to increase any limits you may be considering, and so too will corporate lobbyists, with even higher demands, because they too are considered persons with a right to speak as loud as they can afford.

From the Article V Constitutional convention that HJM 201 proposes could come the amendment you endorsed as HJM 6 in 2013. This convention would not merely address campaign finance reform, but could fully return the dependency of our elected officials to the people, alone, as Madison would have.

Currently, this dependency is on those who are able to spend excessively in elections because of decisions of the nation's high court both long before, and after the infamous Citizens United decision. These are the decisions that gave artificial entities personhood and proclaimed that money was political speech. The resulting laws and policies can only be overturned, for all time, by a Constitutional amendment.

These are the Supreme Court decisions that a HJM 201 convention would ultimately address, to return the will of the people to choose political leadership, write our own laws and determine the fate of our state without the undue influence of all those who can spend excessively.