

My name is Jay Almarode. I live in Lebanon, where I am Director of Engineering of a biotech software company and a small farmer. I am also a concerned citizen, and I am speaking up to urge your support to pass HJM201, because the corrupting influence of money in politics is harming the citizens of Oregon. Our national elections have become a fundraising competition, where the candidate with the most money wins over 90% of the time. It is not a battle of ideas, but a race to raise money. The rulings by the Supreme Court have opened the floodgates so that moneyed interests can spend unlimited amounts and gain undue influence over our elections. And Congress is unwilling to change the system that benefits them and keeps incumbents in office. As a result, the voice of Oregonians and all citizens are drowned out by the flood of money in a broken system. Fortunately, there is a way for the citizens of the states to fix this problem. I urge you to support HJM201, so that the legislature of Oregon joins four other states to call for an Amendments Convention for free and fair elections. As our state representatives, you have the power to restore our democracy and end the dominance of money in our national elections.