

TESTIMONY OF SAL PERALTA
On behalf of the Independent Party of Oregon
SB 1599

Sal Peralta
925 SE Davis St.
McMinnville, OR 97128

2/23/2015

Chair Rosenbaum, Vice Chair Ferrioli and members of the committee,

My name is Sal Peralta. I am testifying on behalf of the Independent Party of Oregon in support of SB 1599. I would like to begin by thanking Senator Ferrioli and his colleagues for using a priority bill to help preserve our party's ballot access and also the chair and others who helped to draft the -1 amendments.

Our basic position is that no political party in Oregon should be weakened or threatened as a result of the passage of the Motor Voter legislation.

Both SB 1599 and the -1 amendment would "hit the pause button" for how major party status is calculated in Oregon, the likeliest effect of that being that the IPO would remain a "major political party" through the 2018 or 2020 election.

The original bill would preserve ballot access for one full four-year cycle. The -1 amendment would preserve ballot access for two years.

We will support either version of the bill. However, it seems clear to us that Motor Voter will necessitate changes in how political parties maintain ballot access in Oregon.

In addition to passing this legislation, we believe that the legislature or the Secretary of State should convene a work group to address how political parties will maintain ballot access to both the primary and general election ballot going forward.

In addition to this testimony, I am also providing a petition that was signed by more than 300 people in just 1 day asking the legislature to take action to protect the Independent Party and the state's minor parties from the effects of the Motor Voter legislation.

Respectfully,

Sal Peralta
Secretary, Independent Party of Oregon