



603.687.1206

www.indparty.com

info@indparty.com

Honorable chair, members of the committee,

My name is Sal Peralta. I am Secretary of the Independent Party of Oregon. I am writing today to testify on behalf of the Independent Party and its 119,000 members.

The Independent Party of Oregon generally favors systems of public financing for political campaigns.

Traditionally, such models provide public funding to a candidate or political party in exchange for the candidate or party agreeing to limit the dollar amount of individual contributions they accept to a relatively low level. Such systems can make public officials more responsive to voters and encourage greater competition in our elections.

However, this bill does not appear to impose any meaningful restrictions on candidates or political parties that would prevent them from accepting big money contributions while receiving a taxpayer-funded boost of 6-1 for small donor contributions. The method of circumvention -- candidates may form multiple committees, so long as the funds are not co-mingled -- is explicitly spelled out in the legislation.

This bill appears to create a taxpayer-funded windfall for candidates and political parties while doing nothing to discourage them from taking big money and appears to favor candidates and committees that are already well established rather than first time candidates.

I also note that the legislation does not include a funding mechanism. The state of Arizona funds its public financing of candidates program through a 10 percent surcharge on civil penalties and criminal fees. IPO recommends that any new "clean money system" include some form of funding mechanism to ensure continuity of the program.

Sincerely,

Sal Peralta