

Feb 26, 2017

Committee Assistant for the House Committee on Rules Samantha Koopman OR

Dear Committee Assistant for the House Committee on Rules Koopman,

I've lived in Oregon most of my lifemore than five decades. I've always tried to be informed about my statel read the news, I vote, I talk to candidates that come to the door, I make contributions. My contributions were small potatoes until about two years ago when I accidentally entered my Visa security code in the amount field for an online campaign donation. It wasn't a huge amount, but apparently it was enough. Ever since, candidates call me to chat and to hear my views. It's not so much that money talks, as that money gets an ear.

And here's another consequence of the way we run elections: I never once thought of running for office.

Now and then I'd wonder why people would do the hard work, put up with the aggravation, and drain their bank accounts to get elected. Like everyone else, I am quick to criticize, but not so fast to step up. When I looked at this campaign finance reform measure, it finally occurred to me that it really ought to be possible for anyone with the starch to run for office, including people who haven't got access to big donations and people who represent the diversity of Oregon.

I've been persuaded that this is a tested, practical approach that can work for Oregon and that it will open a space for voices that really should not be so hard to hear in our political discourse.

We all know that our national politics are not very representative and are in gridlock. Change will have to come from the bottom up. Let Oregon help show the way. Please pass HB2578.

Sincerely,

Ms. Ann Littlewood
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