

Feb 24, 2017

Committee Assistant for the House Committee on Rules Samantha Koopman OR

Dear Committee Assistant for the House Committee on Rules Koopman,

My name is Tere Mathern and I am a US Citizen living in Portland, Oregon.

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2578 allowing small-dollar contribution matches for political candidate seeking election. An important and vital aspect of democracy is the ability to run for an office whether rich or poor. Monied individuals and corporate interests have eroded this ability with increased amounts of money funneled to those who tend to their backers' interests, disrespecting their role to serve the people as a whole.

This bill can help assuage the influence of the already powerful rich by allowing people to run for office--and win--while refusing big money from special interests. It means that talented people from a broader spectrum of our communities, even those who don't have networks of wealthy donors, can run and represent their communities. It means more people who have the whole of the community's interests can afford to run and campaign. It means paying attention to and closer listening to the many people who live here, instead succumbing to out-of-state donors and large corporate influence.

Please vote for this important bill that will build a stronger democracy.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tere Mathern
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