

Feb 27, 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 Judith Armatta. I am a retired lawyer, author, and lifetime Oregonian. I live in Portland, Oregon 97215. I am writing to urge your support for HB 2578, which provides public financing for Oregon candidates for election to public office.

Without serious campaign finance reform, there is no chance of regaining our democracy. I recently read an article about Robert Mercer, who has spent millions supporting extremist right wing organizations and Donald Trump. Mercer would like to see "no government" as it advantages the wealthy.

Here in Oregon, small dollar matching will allow more citizens who lack wealth and connections to run for office. The result is a more representative state legislature and, ultimately, sounder legislation.

Supporting HB 2578 will help achieve that end.

Thank you for your serious attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Armatta
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