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Chair Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chairs Mike McLane and Dan Rayfield, and members of the House Rules Committee:

RE: **HB 2927 - NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE**

I strongly oppose [HB 2927 National Popular Vote](#). This bill is a ruse to abolish the Electoral College, an honorable institution that has served our country well [from its beginning](#).

HB 2927, is unfair to the citizens of Oregon. It would rob them of meaningful input into the national presidential election. It would destroy the underlying values that made America great and would set this country on a dangerous course. There are proposals before the Legislature much more deserving of legislators' time and resources than this one.

Please read this clear explanation of why the Electoral College is still necessary for the best interests of this country. It was written by Sen. Jeff Kruse, and included in his emailed newsletter to constituents and friends on Jan. 13, 2017. I inserted yellow high-lighting for particularly important points.

“The one subject I have received the most e-mails and phone calls about since the election is the Electoral College and the ‘need’ to go to a popular vote. I can understand that if you were a Clinton supporter you would want such a change, but I want to point out one very interesting aspect of the popular vote. While Clinton did win the popular vote by around 2.5 million votes, it should also be pointed out she won California by around 4 million votes. So, if you eliminate California, Trump won the rest of the nation by 1.5 million votes. This points out the wisdom behind the Electoral College, and also the thinking of the Founders when they wrote the Constitution.

“The main purpose of the U.S. Constitution is to LIMIT the power of the federal government and to protect the individual. While Congress and the Courts have unacceptably expanded that authority, the Constitution spells out specifically the proper role of government. The Founders believed, as do I, that most authority should rest with state and local governments. That is why Congress was set up the way it is. The House of Representatives to represent the people and the Senate to represent the states. The wisdom of this is to ensure that states with smaller populations have an equal voice in their government.

“The Electoral College is set up in the same way. Each state has the same number of electors as they have members of Congress. In the case of Oregon, we have 7 votes in the Electoral College, which actually gives us a stronger voice than we would have based only on population. Moving to a popular vote would mean that about six states would receive all of the focus and I doubt that Oregon, with only 3% of the population, would ever again enter into the calculations of either party. Letting California decide our elections is not a path I want to go down.

“Let’s be clear: we cannot allow Californians to dictate public policy for the rest of the country. **We are not a democracy**; we are a representative republic. That is true from Congress, clear down to city councils. A true democracy cannot function beyond a very small scale. The brilliant men who founded this country and wrote our Constitution, created a nation un-paralleled in history. ...”

Chairs and members of the House Rules Committee, HB 2927 belongs in the dust-bin of history.