

To: House Rules Committee

From: Jim Sjulín, Portland, Oregon

Re: HB 2927

Hopefully the Committee is hearing and considering the many legitimate reasons for supporting HB 2927, the measure that would finally apply "one person - one vote" to the election of our nation's highest elected office. I'd like to add my voice to those supporting the Bill and state the reasons that this is important for all of us.

The history of the Electoral College tells us that it was intended to prevent someone unqualified from assuming the Office of the President, fearing that "the unruly masses" would decide by majority vote that someone unprepared and ill-suited for the Office would become President. The obvious irony before us now is that the exact opposite has happened. The Electoral College, long considered a doubtful enterprise, is now a proven and perverse failure of its original intent.

Is anyone on the Committee willing to defend a system that creates uneven power of voters from state to state?

Is anyone on the Committee willing to tell a Democrat in South Carolina, or a Republican in Oregon that their Presidential vote matters? Rules requiring "winner take all" or allowing abstention effectively disenfranchise political minorities in many States.

The Electoral College now only serves to underscore our regional differences when, in fact, we are not all that different. Further, the College abets those who are already cynical of our Country's democratic processes.

Finally, I am convinced that Oregon risks nothing by signing on to this thoughtful approach to achieving one person = one vote.