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**ATTN: Senate Committee on Rules**

Chair Burdick & Members of the Committee,

My name is Sal Peralta. I am testifying on behalf of the Independent Party of Oregon and its 120,000 members on SJR 42, which proposes the referral of a Constitutional Amendment to voters requiring that all legislation introduced in the Oregon legislature be introduced at the request of a Senator or Representative.

Current Oregon House and Senate rules allow for the introduction of committee bills. The purpose of these bills should be to solve consensus problems or issues that committees become aware of during the legislative session. For example, in this legislative session, the Independent Party of Oregon and a coalition of Oregon third parties has requested that the committee sponsor a bill to fulfill the Senate and House leadership's promise to permanently fix the impact that the state's Motor Voter law on Oregon's minor parties (To date, we have seen no legislation, nor heard of any hearing scheduled to address any of these concerns).

Despite our party's support for such use of committee bills, we question why any legislation should be introduced anonymously. Shouldn't the public record of every bill include who originated it and why? What public interest is served by this anonymity?

That said, I question whether a constitutional amendment is necessary. If the will of this body is to operate with greater transparency, couldn't that be more easily accomplished by simply adopting a rule along the lines proposed in this bill? This seems like a reasonable reform. Wouldn't it be easier to simply find a majority of legislators who agree and will either push for the institution to change its rules or who will take a stand on this issue the next time the body adopts its rules?

Sincerely,

Sal Peralta  
Secretary, Independent Party of Oregon