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Jun 20, 2017

Senate Rules Committee

OR

Dear Committee,

In 1980, I was 11 years old. I was watching the returns as my parents were out at the polls. Before they returned home, Dan Rather told me from the TV that people on the West Coast didn't really count at this point and may as well not bother. When my parents got there I was in tears wondering why this was OK in a country that is supposed to be a democracy.

I grew up and majored in foreign language but got a minor in American government and learned a lot about our election process. I served my country in the foreign service and explained our electoral system to foreign nationals. Overall I am very proud of my country's electoral process, but the presidency has a very flawed system due to the inequalities inherent in the electoral college and the way votes are counted as they come in.

In 2004, I was in the U.S. Embassy in Cairo voting for president. A Marine from Georgia was also there trying to figure out the instructions and I helped him to go through the steps. Our votes should have been worth the same, but in actual point of fact, his vote is more valuable than mine. How is this just or fair?

Since 2006 I have been back in Oregon, being politically active and voting for President every four years. I wish my vote mattered as much as someone's from a rural state like Iowa.

I urge you to help to reduce these disparities by supporting the National Popular Vote initiative, a step in the right direction towards one person, one vote.

Sincerely,

Ms. Anna Shook  
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