

Dear House Rules Committee,

I am writing today in order to resubmit my testimony for Saturday, July 2nd's work session to urge you to OPPOSE the latest amendment to SB 229 which OLIS indicate is the -A10. I find it to be an overt plot to use deceptive ballot titles and to suppress voter turnout by requiring an expensive special election for any tax increases that are referred to a vote of the people. This whole amendment seems designed to fool voters into caving to unpopular tax hikes. It is even more appalling that the House Rules Committee, according to media reports, is moving to a vote on such sweeping manipulation of Oregon's initiative and electoral system without any public input.

The lesson from the defeat of Measure 97 in 2016 was not that Oregon's political leaders must try to fool and suppress Oregon voters in order to get the massive tax increases they want, it was that voters want more action on controlling spending and less bailing out bad policy by hitting Oregon's citizens and job creators even more painful taxes. Instead, those leading our state have reportedly chosen to conduct secretive, partisan legislative deliberations destined to waste precious tax dollars by forcing a special election that will suppress voter participation, disturb voters with Christmastime campaigning, deceive them with hyper-partisan ballot titles, and intentionally impair the right of Oregon voters to have the final say on major legislation and tax increases. This is a corrupt abuse of power and must be opposed.

So many of us are concerned that our state continues to spiral into a fiscal abyss of PERS liability and out-of-control spending. We're also disappointed at the poor results that our state government has delivered with the money already spent on education and traffic congestion, etc. When our leaders blame taxpayers and just keep coming back with the same tired, failed answer of 'give us more money,' it is no wonder there is an effort to fool and manipulate voters whose ire you may face.

It is time for leadership from you, not talking points. Drop the scheme to manipulate our elections process to 'put one over' on the voters. Everyone should reject this abuse and deception. Oppose SB229 in all its forms.

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