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Attn: House Committee on Rules
Office of Reps Wilson, Whisnant, Post

Date: 2/21/2017

Honorable Chair Williamson, Representatives Wilson, Whisnant, Post & distinguished members of the committee,

My name is Sal Peralta. I am a resident of McMinnville, OR. I offer this testimony on behalf of the Independent Party of Oregon and its 119,000 member statewide on HJR 6.

Oregon previously had a system of state senate apportionment similar to that recommended in this bill. That system was abandoned because it violated "one person, one vote" and was found unconstitutional in light of Reynolds v Sims insofar as it would grant the same voting strength to Lake County, population 7,895 as it does to Multnomah County, population 766,000.

We recommend that the committee focus its attention on establishing a framework for adopting a non-partisan redistricting model similar to that currently being discussed by a panel hosted by the Secretary of State and chaired by Rep Barker.

Sincerely,

Sal Peralta
Secretary, Independent Party of Oregon