

Dear Senate Rules Committee:

I am dismayed to learn that once again a bill, SB1512, is being considered to fundamentally change our Presidential election process. Electing the President by a National Popular Vote is a decision not to be taken lightly. Our Founding Fathers were clear in their intent. The Constitution codifies the intent that the States choose the President. This republican principle ensures that each State has a defined voice that can't be taken away. It ensures that a candidate must impress upon the State that he or she will represent that State's interests in order to gain its electoral votes. Changing our electoral system to a Popular Vote would in fact ensure that the voters of Oregon and other less populated States will never have a voice again. If the electoral votes of Oregon are determined by what voters Nationwide and in particular large urban centers desire, then candidates will no longer bother to address the needs of Oregon's voters.

Even supporters of a National Popular Vote must understand that the National Popular Vote Compact is dangerous. Changing the way we elect the President should not be a decision made by a minority of States all with a similar political leaning. This is in fact exactly what the NPVC does. It should instead be considered via a Constitutional Amendment so that all Americans can weigh in on the issue and have their voice heard.

I ask you to vote NO on the NPV because it is an attack on the Constitution that will forever change our representative form of government in a way that will permanently diminish or even eliminate Oregon's voice in the Presidential election. Even if you support the concept of a National Popular vote I ask you to have the courage to vote NO on this bill and instead force a Constitutional amendment to change the way we elect our President.

Thank you for your consideration

Melissa Stout

Protect Your Vote USA