

February 10, 2018

Testimony in opposition to SB 368  
Senate Rules Committee  
Meeting Monday, February 11, 2019

Chair and Committee Members:  
Senator Burdick  
Senator Baertschiger Jr  
Senator Boquist  
Senator Dembrow  
Senator Roblan

My name is Debra Fant, a retired professional, and member of Oregon Community Rights Network. I write you today sharing observations and questions concerning SB 368 which I strongly oppose.

The Initiative and Referendum law was passed by the electorate in 1902, “a process of direct democracy” to quote the Secretary of State’s introduction to citizen’s rights to amend the State Constitution or over-turn bills passed by the Oregon Legislature. We have the right and responsibility to challenge what is despotic, unjust, or imperils the safety of Oregon citizens and must guard this right to not be eroded!

I listened to arguments in Oct. 2018 made in the Oregon Court of Appeals, which is reviewing the action of the Lane County Clerk to disqualify two measures on separate-vote grounds, after sufficient voter signatures were collected and validated.

In these measures, citizens are challenging corporate practices believed to be harmful, industry and PR firms are documented in ORSTAR as spending enormous amounts of money and materials to influence decision makers and to stop the challengers. **This is the first time in Oregon’s history that any county charter measure has ever been disqualified on separate-vote grounds.** Why?

On what authority is the Lane County Clerk or any County Clerk qualified to evaluate the complexities of separate vote grounds outside of a court of law?  
Why has the Association of Oregon Counties written this legislative proposal when it clearly violates enumerated Constitutional Rights as outlined in several others’ testimonies?

In the Declaration of Independence we are reminded that government is “...deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,....” “...Under absolute Despotism, it is their (our) right, it is their (our) duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.”

I urge your committee to explore these questions and to review the content of the Bill of Rights and those inherent rights of human people as a guide as you make your decision to oppose or support this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

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