

DATE: April 3, 2019
TO: Senate Rules Committee
FROM: Mindy Lowden, Wolf PAC Oregon Legislative Director
97322
RE: Support for SB 870

Dear Chair Burdick and Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

Please support SB 870- Interstate Compact for Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote.

The best way to overcome the undemocratic results of the Electoral College is to join those states already signed onto the Interstate Compact.

Our electoral system is based on the concept of one vote per person. The implementation of the Interstate Compact will make that a reality for presidential races. Also, adoption of the Interstate Compact means that every vote actually counts. It will encourage voters in “safe states” to come out to vote because they know that their vote will be counted and hold equal weight with the votes of every other voter in the election. For states like Oregon and many others, it will mean that candidates cannot take these states for granted, and it will provide our voters with a degree of influence that currently does not exist in most presidential elections. Such added attention is good for our democratic process in Oregon, will increase voter turnout, and have a ripple effect down ballot.

Please consider the concern raised by Dan Meek in his SB 270 written testimony. He makes a compelling case in this testimony and suggests the following amendment be added to SB 870 as a way to prevent states from being able to swing an election by keeping a major candidate off the presidential election ballot:

“If a State fails to place all nationally-recognized major candidates for President on the general election ballot or fails to tally and report the votes cast for any such candidate, the national popular vote total, for the purposes of this Compact, shall exclude all votes from that State.”

I urge the Senate Rules Committee to give careful consideration to adding the amendment suggested by Dan Meek and to vote favorably on this bill.

Sincerely,

Mindy Lowden, Wolf PAC Oregon Legislative Director
97322