

I wanted to submit the following testimony to support HB 870 regarding the National Popular Vote initiative:

"When the United States of America was founded, our predecessors needed to ensure all citizens were represented in the new democratic system, in stark contrast to their previous monarchical government.

Because communication of ideas and information across the wild, untamed landscapes of the New America was inhibited by, I'll say, "antique" technology, they created a brilliant system of having electors represent the people of their regions. This Electoral College system also required equal representation by having a minimum number of electors from each state so that tiny states and big states would have their interests represented, regardless of how many people had settled in the new states. We were still migrating into new frontiers. New York was many times more populated than some of the western territories. People in the West should not have been discouraged by their quests to migrate. They needed equal representation.

Today, we are seeing the widespread practice of gerrymandering voting districts, which abuses the original purpose of this brilliant system. This abuse was thought up and instituted by some in the Republican Party to get districts to be as "Red" as possible. I am registered as a voter independent of any political party, but I was raised in a strongly conservative Republican family. This is a disgrace for their Party and is disrespectful of the foundations of our country. It is also unpatriotic as it subverts the very good intentions of our Founding Fathers.

Regardless of which Party has done this, we must focus on representation for ALL Americans in our national voting system. Many Americans are seeing their votes become less important. When there is an overwhelming majority of voters who see their efforts to vote and encouragement of others to vote squandered, then we all have a problem.

Having minority populations rule over a majority is unjust and smacks of the monarchical system to which our country was founded in direct opposition, as well as dictatorships, like North Korea.

Today, we have access to information like never before. Though we have seen abuse of this through foreign disinformation campaigns by Russia and their ilk, our national government leaders recognize that interference and are taking steps to avoid this in the future. Or, they should be. It is possible that the US Congress might need to initiate a bill to require our leaders to publicly decry and penalize disinformation purveyors. Sanctions are one thing that has been done, but our Commander-in-Chief has failed to publicly stand up for the American people in this respect, but that is an aside.

Information is now available to all Americans through current technology and we can communicate our ideas to each other easily. All candidates can get their message to all of America. Therefore, we need a popular vote system to represent the current state of our country by letting each vote be counted as meaningfully as any other.

The current initiative does allow for the Electoral College to still play a part in the system, but my hope is that we will eventually do away with the College completely. It is unnecessary.

The National Popular Vote bill will show that each person in our wonderful State of Oregon is represented in the national vote as much as so-called "key" states like Ohio and Wisconsin. It will ensure

that my woman's voice, my small business owner's voice, my musician's voice, and my parental voice are represented as strongly as every other voter's. I AM the United States of America. I am part of "We the People"."

Please let me know if I may be permitted to testify in person.

Thank you,  
Shannon Eoff  
Newberg, Oregon