



Date: 5/23/2019

To: The House Committee on Rules

RE: Position statement on HB 2714-4

Chair Holvey, Vice Chair Williamson, Vice Chair Wilson, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Sean Nikas and I am here as the co-owner of Busy Bees Realty in Salem. I am also a member of Main Street Alliance of Oregon. Main Street Alliance has been following this issue of campaign contributions, small donor campaigns and transparency for some time because we know that corporate interests have too much power in our state capitol and that the voices of small businesses are often not heard.

First, I would like to thank the legislature for doing some great work on bringing down contribution limits for some areas, however, I am still very concerned about the fact that caucus committees will be allowed to contribute a significant amount per year, plus create as many political caucuses as they want, therefore limiting the power that an individual's contribution can have.

Secondly, the federal loopholes that allow for limitless contributions from Caucus Political Parties or Political Party Committees need to be removed. These sorts of loopholes just reinforce the problems in our system, rather than creating a system that allows everyday people to be engaged and excited about their local elections and democracy as a whole.

I would ask that you help keep those running for office talking to their constituents by creating limits that are more reasonable for working families to contribute and by limiting the number of Caucus Political Parties that one party can create.

Sincerely,

Sean Nikas  
Busy Bees Realty LLC.

