



Chair Ginny Burdick and members of the committee

I question the sanity of SJM 11 and oppose it.

SJM 11 urges Congress to require candidates for federal elected office to disclose relevant portions of federal tax return to appear on the ballot.

What is “relevant portions” of a federal tax return?

The bill states: “Whereas the American people should have confidence that their federally elected representatives are working solely for the interests of the American people and not for their personal financial interests.”

Really? A tax return is on personal interests of how they earn their financial gains to support their families. Nothing on a personal income tax form that is found legally filled out will reveal whether a person is working solely for the interests of the American people, and we shouldn't expect it. It will, however, open the door for prognosis and accusations that are not founded in truth. We have enough lies spread in campaigns without feeding the fire.

Further, it sets a precedence of government having the authority to release personal information. It opens the door for citizens' initiatives to release state and local candidate tax returns. Most voters just want to know their tax return was legally submitted to qualify them as candidates.

Don't disgrace Oregon with this bill.

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