



June 24, 2019

Oregon House of Representatives  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

My name is Richard Carson and I am the City Manager for the City of Damascus. I volunteered for the job of city manager – because I believe in the representative form of government – and the city of Damascus was being deprived of it. I don't need the job. I'm retired. I volunteered for the job, as did one of Oregon premier land use lawyers, because we both believe it is a just cause.

People don't like taxes or government. The anti-government folks used this sentiment to incrementally destroy a city. In the case of Damascus is got so bad that everything had to be voted on. It was voter-annexation, voter-comprehensive plans and voter taxation. Someone noted that city government couldn't buy a printer without a vote of the people. In the end, they created a monstrosity, unheard of in America, called voter-disincorporation.

The only problem was their own charter tripped them up! They couldn't get enough people to vote for municipal euthanasia.

The vote on everything idea sounds good, but it's really called the tyranny of the majority. It's also called mob rule. Alexander Hamilton and James Madison wrote about it in the Federalist Papers – they wrote that it is “is the end of government. It is the end of civil society.”

If these folks get their way, then you may as well go home. All voting will be done by the mob, by computer at home. The Constitution is about a representative form of democracy. And you are here because of it. You are a representative and you were elected to the House of Representatives. You were elected to represent your constituents. If you vote for Senate Bill 226, then you just voted against your very existence in a Constitutional form of government.

What happened in Damascus was a travesty. The Mayor and the City Council are working to restore representative government to the city of Damascus. But they need your help. So, vote no on this bill. It's an embarrassment to Oregon's representative form of government and it's just a bad bill.

Sincerely,

*Richard H. Carson*

Richard H. Carson, City Manager