

Chair Burdick and members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I write to you today to voice my opposition to SJR201 and the -1 amendment. I believe this constitutional amendment in either form is another power grab by the majority party.

The quorum rule is in place to be a tool of last resort for the minority when the majority is forcing bills through the process without regard to minority opinion. It has been used by both Republican and Democrat parties at times in the past. To modify the quorum from 2/3 to a simple majority eliminates the ability of the minority to force meaningful discussion in the legislative process.

As for the -1 amendment to SJR201, the legislative assembly has plenty of time to do its necessary functions as the calendar is written. The failure of the legislative leadership to schedule necessary functions such as budget adjustments as first priority in this session is on them.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose SJR201 and its proposed amendment. If these proposed constitutional amendments do make it to a vote of the people, I will vocally oppose either format and encourage my fellow Oregonians to do the same. If the majority party wants to conduct business, that business needs to be done in a respectful manner that includes the minority voice, not ignore the minority.

Sincerely,

Matt Calef  
Independence, OR