

Testimony of Richard M. Botteri re HB 3343

I am a retired elections lawyer who advised Oregon candidates for 25 years in connection with contribution and expenditure laws related to election campaigns. I also hold a master's degree in legal history.

I strongly oppose HB3343. It is unrealistic and, in several respects, outright unconstitutional.

I have read Kyle Markley's testimony submitted to the committee and adopt his testimony as if it were my own. It is well reasoned and accurate. Having also practiced litigation for nearly 30 years, I predict this statute will be dead on arrival when it reaches the courts.

Based on experiences I had in representing individuals acting as campaign treasurers, HB 3343's penalty provisions are so vindictive that no one who is not a compensated professional accountant would agree to serve as a treasurer. I have had clients who because of simple errors suffered thousands of dollars of fines. The dilemma presented by this bill is its limitations on contributions will prevent many candidates from hiring appropriate accounting and legal help. This will discourage many Oregonians from running for office.

HB3343 is a bad bill.