

Submitter: Debbie Wong  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1561

Dear Chair Senator Wagner, Vice-chair Senator Knopp and members of the committee:

Meaningful campaign finance reform is the top priority for me as it will impact every issue from climate change, education, housing, healthcare, immigration, police accountability, equitable taxation and many other issues I care about. I am deeply disturbed in my advocacy work when I experience the outsized influence of big money in the decision making of public officials. One needs to only go to ORESTAR to see how the vote will go. Meaningful campaign limits, public financing, and strong disclosure requirements is what is needed.

I understand that SB 1561 is a starting point to which there will be amendments. Please do not repeat the House playbook of the last session in trying to push forward a bill riddled with loopholes rendering it meaningless in an attempt to appease the public which is becoming increasingly angry. I would request that the committee involve Honest Elections, OR a nonpartisan organization to truly operationalize the intent of the voters. Involvement of Honest Elections, OR will increase the legitimacy of the bill brought forward.

I ask you to honor the intention behind Measure 107 which was overwhelmingly supported by voters. I urge the legislature to refer IP 45 to the voters should the Secretary of State, in response to big money donors, successfully subvert the will of Oregonians in blocking meaningful reform from the ballot through choosing to ignore long established precedent on the initiative process and choosing instead to require "full text" now which has not been required in the past representing a change in interpretation benefiting her and her donors. Again highlighting the need to get money out of politics.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,  
Debbie Wong