Submitter: Christopher Einkorn

On Behalf Of: HB2004

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HB2004

Our plurality system of elections leads to outcomes where the voice of major political parties supersedes the voice of the electorate. Combined with the dominate negative bias in our media (which is how most voters are "informed") this leads to voting against the "other" political party trapping the electorate into a false dichotomy. There is no incentive for either candidate or the media to keep the electorate informed, only outraged.

When "both" parties agree on a topic, voters are politically impotent. When "both" parties disagree, these issues are reduced to a false dichotomy and made part of the party's platform at the national level. This leaves no room for dissent within "either" of the parties.

Ranked choice voting is good for voters and it is good for elected officials. It is not good for political parties, and it is not good for the media's overuse of the negativity bias to support their profit motive. Parties and the media are not a part of our government.

Ranked choice voting is the most important political topic in our country. Without it, our politics will continue to be dominated by the "two" parties and their influencers. This is Oregon's (and America's) only hope of providing the electorate with a voice in the political discussion.

Duverger's law: "Duverger argued that there were two mechanisms whereby plurality voting systems lead to fewer major parties: (i) small parties are disincentivized to form because they have great difficulty winning seats or representation, and (ii) voters are wary of voting for a smaller party whose policies they actually favor because they do not want to "waste" their votes (on a party unlikely to win a plurality) and therefore tend to gravitate to one of two major parties that is more likely to achieve a plurality, win the election, and implement policy."