

Submitter: Ross Williams  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB4024

As everyone seems to know, groups of citizens who make large campaign donors got together and drafted this legislation as an alternative to the initiative circulating that would restrict their campaign contributions. Instead of collecting signatures and getting citizens to support it at the polls, they took it to the legislators whose campaigns they fund and immediately got a hearing.

It pretty much epitomizes the problem. Each and every one of you has a conflict of interest. You have arrived at your position through the current funding system. It has rewarded you. Like the people who drafted this legislation, you have an interest in that system not being reformed in any way that might seriously alter the outcomes of elections.

I don't know whether this is a good proposal. A lot of groups I respect support it. But you should tell your donors they need to collect the signatures, put it on the ballot and convince voters it is a good proposal. I will be happy to have the opportunity to consider it once they have done that.