

Submitter: Aram Andriesian
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4024

HB4024 is a cynical attempt to prevent real reform, and it disappoints me as an Oregonian that some of my lawmakers are working to thwart the improvements possible via IP9. Other concerned citizens and organizations will more eloquently and accurately break down the dire problems with HB4024, and its inferiority to IP9: The "persons" based definitions allowing Citizens United-style shenanigans, the lack of regulation on foreign entities' contributions giving non-Oregonians outsized influence on our elections, the advertisement disclosure "requirements" with so many loopholes they're effectively meaningless. But what those issues all have in common is that they would sound like good ideas to most Oregonians, but to legally trained parties, it's clear they're fool's gold, "gotchas" that could make voters think something good is happening, when there's barely any change at all. That in mind, it's clearly less-than-optimal legislation, but that's not the extent of my opposition to this bill. What's so disappointing is the timing; if this were any other election season it would be a shrug of the shoulders, more lip service against corruption. But Oregon legislators chose the same year that IP9 is gaining steam to propose this. We should never guess intentions, but why now? Best case scenario it looks like a clueless attempt to stay ahead of the curve, and as a lifelong Oregonian I'm disappointed in my state government either way. But we don't have to settle for disappointing bills. Let's give good legislation a chance, clean up campaign finance in our great state, vote no on HB4024, and support IP9 as citizens and lawmakers however we can.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony,
Aram J. Andriesian