

To: House Rules Committee  
From: Deborah Ferrer, The Dalles  
Re: Please Oppose HB 4024-3  
Date: February 22, 2024

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Helfrich, Vice Chair Kropf, Members of the House Rules Committee:

In 2020, I voted YES for measure 107, along with more than 78% of my fellow voters - Democrats, Republican, non-affiliated, and all other parties - to change Oregon's Constitution so that YOU, our legislators, would have the authority to limit political contributions and expenditures. Four legislative sessions later, nothing has changed, except that voters are increasingly frustrated with your inaction.

HB 4024 with the -3 amendment is an insult to the voters of Oregon. This bill, as it currently stands, leaves gaping loopholes for the very groups who drafted the amendment. Thanks to some good reporting by Dirk VanderHart (OPB 2-9-24), we know that business and labor groups, the biggest political donors in the state, worked together to draft this bill. Good Grief! You've put the foxes in charge of the henhouse! Did you really think they'd draft something that would cut them out of their position of political power?

We get so many things right in this state, but campaign finance is not one of them. As one of only five states with NO limits, the amount of money spent on campaigns in Oregon is obscene. We all know that it gives unfair influence to those with money, and we're tired of it. It's not right, and we made it very clear with our vote in 2020 that we wanted you to do something about it. We won't settle for faux campaign finance reform, which this bill currently is. We want the real deal. We want the kind of reform that we see in Initiative Petition 9.

If you won't do it now, the voters will do it in November.