

Submitter: Lucy Mead
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4024

I am a resident of Eugene, Oregon, writing to urge state legislators to oppose HB 4024. I write with a great deal of embarrassment because I have focused my attention on national politics for many years, largely to the exclusion of what is happening in my own "backyard": the state of Oregon. The 2010 Supreme Court decision on Citizens United vs. FEC totally infuriated me. That decision effectively handed over to the wealthy and corporations the power to choose the future of our beautiful democracy! It has become Big Money against individual voters. How are we still a democracy with this kind of power in the hands of extremely wealthy, powerful and greedy self-interest groups? But I had no idea that my own state is right on board with this democracy killing system of election funding, until I recently heard it from Common Cause. I am literally shocked and horrified that Oregon is one of only five states that has no campaign finance limits of its own! We are throwing away our dazzling dream of a democracy by allowing this system to continue. This fact seems so self-evident that it needs no explanation. Simply put, either pass REAL campaign finance reform or leave it to the voters to pass at the ballot. That is what constitutes a democracy. Level the field: get big money out of our politics, please!

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my opinion.