

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HJR3

VOTE NO ON HJR3

This bill will block voters from the democratic process. A few Republican lawmakers favor this bill because big city population centers find it easier to gather signatures — and liberals utilize this difference by putting measures on the ballot that are wildly unpopular or destructive to rural Oregonians. Despite these arguments, HJR 3 calls to effectively shut down the initiative for everyone both urban and rural — this is a massive big mistake.

Furthermore, HJR 3's power to make it illegal for non-Oregonians to financially support a ballot/oppose an Oregon ballot measure. This is really foolish and outright censorship. If you are a business owner across the river in Vancouver Washington and you own 100 farm stands in Oregon and there is a ballot measure to ban farm stands, under HJR 3 that man and his right to protect his Oregon employees from extinction with a simple \$1 donation would be illegal under HJR 3.

The huge drop in citizen-led and grassroots driven petition drives is a direct result of politicians making the initiative process much harder. Many of the measures on the statewide ballot are referrals from the Legislature. Now under this bill, getting signatures would be even more difficult.

The people's petition process is a critical check on politicians' power. This bill aims to limit and reduce people from using the petition initiative process.