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| Submitter: | Joe  Hovey |
| On Behalf Of: | |
| Committee: | House Committee On Rules |
| Measure, Appointment or Topic: | HB3166 |

Today approx 43% of Oregon registered voters are not allowed to vote for candidates in the State-run primary. As a recent member of the Independent Party, I am in full support of giving "us" the ability to vote in State Primaries. The percentage of non-affiliated voters (NAVs) has been increasing steadily since 1970 and could soon reach 50%. Over half of all Oregon voters under the age of 35 are not members of either major party. These younger voters are also more racially diverse than older voters. Our current policy of "closed" Primaries disproportionately exclude younger, diverse voters, as well as people who do not identify with the major parties. This bill is a step in the right direction.