Submitter:	Benjamin Roche
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3166

Members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against another ranked voting idea, a system that was rightfully rejected by Oregon voters in November 2024 through Measure 117. The defeat of this measure was a victory for democracy and the will of the people.

Ranked voting is a complex and confusing system that undermines the fundamental principle of "one person, one vote"[9]. It needlessly complicates our electoral process, leading to voter confusion, lower turnout, and delayed election results[11]. The traditional plurality voting system, which most Americans are accustomed to, is simpler and more accessible[9].

The rejection of Measure 117 by 60% of Oregon voters demonstrates that citizens recognize the flaws in ranked voting methods [2]. This system can lead to the disenfranchisement of voters, particularly when ballots are discarded if voters don't rank every candidate[1]. It also puts candidates in the awkward position of having to vote for their opposition or risk not having their vote for themselves counted[1].

Furthermore, ranked voting can result in candidates with as little as 4% of the vote winning elections, diminishing voter confidence[1]. This goes against the core principles of democracy, where the will of the majority should prevail.

Oregonians have defended the integrity of our electoral system recently when they voted against measure 117 and ensured that every vote truly counts. We must continue to protect our democratic processes and resist attempts to implement systems that could undermine the clear expression of the people's will.

Citations:
[1] Ranked-Choice Voting: A Partisan Plot to Engineer Election Results
https://thefga.org/research/ranked-choice-voting-partisan-plot-to-disrupt-elections/
[2] Measure 117, which would bring ranked choice voting to Oregon, is ...
https://www.opb.org/article/2024/11/05/oregon-ballot-measure-117-ranked-choice-voting/
[3] The Complexity of Ranked Choice Voting and How It Can Improve ...
https://pressbooks.lib.vt.edu/pper/chapter/the-complexity-of-ranked-choice-voting-and-how-it-can-improve-the-u-s-election-system/
[4] Measure 117 would bring ranked choice voting to Oregon by 2028

https://www.opb.org/article/2024/10/15/think-out-loud-measure-117-oregon-ranked-choice-voting/
[5] What to Know About Ranked-Choice Voting and Why Some Oppose It https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/what-is-ranked-choice-voting
[6] [PDF] Measure 117 – Statewide Ranked Choice Voting https://lwvpdx.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024-Ballot-Measure-117-Ranked-Choice-Voting-1-1.pdf
[7] Ranked-Choice Voting Ballot Measures Could Cool U.S. Politics http://newamerica.org/political-reform/blog/ranked-choice-voting-ballot-measures-could-cool-us-politics/
[8] [PDF] Written Testimony Volume I A - MAR - NYC.gov https://www.nyc.gov/assets/charter/downloads/pdf/reports-ballot-issues/Written-Testimony-Volume-I.pdf
[9] [PDF] Opposition Statement SB 493 Elections – Ranked Choice Voting https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/cmte_testimony/2024/eee/1hNBZuFDuwxqTkv_Otk2ZyeKHGq_BcLqM.pdf
[10] Oregon Measure 117 - Online Ranked-Choice Voting Polls https://www.rankedvote.co/locations/oregon/ranked-choice-voting-for-statewide-and-federal-elections
[11] Ranked-Choice Voting: A Disaster in Disguise https://thefga.org/research/ranked-choice-voting-a-disaster-in-disguise/
[12] [PDF] Voting for Native Peoples: Barriers and Policy Solutions https://democrats-cha.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-cha.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2024_July_Voting%20for%20Native%20Peoples_Report-vm3.pdf
[13] What is Ranked Choice Voting & Arguments For and Against https://www.closeup.org/democrat-mary-peltola-alaska-house-of-representatives-ranked-choice-voting/