Submitter:	Nicole Kalk
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3166

I am writing to oppose HB 3166, which proposes significant alterations to our state's election process. After careful examination of the bill's provisions and its potential ramifications, I believe this legislation would adversely affect Oregon's political landscape and the integrity of our electoral system.

This proposed change raises several serious concerns:

- Undermining Party Representation: Oregon's closed primary system allows political parties to select candidates who best represent their values and policy positions. The elimination of partisan primaries under HB 3166 would diminish the ability of parties to present candidates who truly reflect their platforms.
- Weakening Political Accountability: Partisan primaries serve as a crucial mechanism for holding elected officials accountable to their party's values and constituents. Removing this step could weaken this important check on political power.
- Disproportionate Influence of Money: A system where all candidates compete on a single ballot could give an unfair advantage to well-funded candidates who can afford extensive advertising, potentially overshadowing grassroots campaigns.
- Potential for Strategic Manipulation: This system could be exploited by political operatives flooding the ballot with candidates to split votes and manipulate which candidates advance to the general election.

I respectfully request that you oppose House Bill 3166.