Submitter:	Andrew Berka
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3166

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and members of the House Committee On Rules,

Less than three in five Oregon voters are registered in either major party, and slightly over one third voted in the most recent primary election. As it stands, the composition of our state's government is largely determined by a minority of voters. HB 3166-2, with the recent amendment, presents a reform which has the support of an overwhelming majority of Oregonians, who want to be included in the political process no matter their party affiliation and take control back from the special interests that hold sway in primary races.

However, this bill may be threatening for the political futures of many of the members of the committee. Chair Bowman and Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham have not faced competitive general election races for their House seats in their entire careers. Creating a more open primary process could weaken their secure positions, exposing them to the unpredictable forces of democracy.

It may seem easy to let HB 3166-2 die in committee, with the hope that this decision will go unnoticed. However, Oregonians will then realize you have admitted that you value your own success over the principle of democracy. You can put the problem to rest for now, but know that by doing so you are only further building the case for a ballot initiative in 2026, which I can promise will come.

Choose wisely. To protect your integrity and that of the institution and respective parties you represent, send HB 3166-2 to the House floor with a recommendation to pass as amended.

Thank you,
Andrew Berka